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African Violet MAGAZINE

March • April 2005 Volume 58 Number 2

AVSA Information

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AFFILIATES: Chapter - $27.00; Council, State or Region - $27.00.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION: Send ideas, offers to help, requests for assistance to Carolee Carter, 10947 SW 71st Circle, Ocala, FL 33476. *E-mail* carolee37@earthlink.net

AFFILIATES: For information on Affiliates or how to organize a chapter, write Bev Promersberger, 7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506. *E-mail* promers22@hotmail.com

AVSA OFFICE: Jenny Daugereau, Administrative Coordinator, 2375 North Street, Beaumont, TX 77702, 1-800-770-AVSA; 409-839-4725; FAX 409-839-4329. Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST. *E-mail* avsa@earthlink.net

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BOOSTER FUND: Send contributions to Shirley Berger, 4343 Schumacher Rd. - 196E, Sebring, FL 33872-2639.

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COMMERCIAL SALES & EXHIBITS: For information on convention entries or sales room, contact Kathy Bell, 9611 E. Blanding Ln., Tucson, AZ 85747. *Email* kkbell@ag.arizona.edu.

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ARTICLES BY MEMBERS, COLUMNISTS AND MEMORIALS: Send to Editor.

Please Note: Deadlines - Articles and Columnists: Jan. issue - Oct. 1; Mar. issue - Dec. 1; May issue - Feb. 1; July issue - Apr 1; Sept. issue - June 1; Nov. issue - Aug. 1.

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"AND THE WINNERS ARE...": Send show results to Mary Corondan, 7205 Dillon Ct., Plano, TX 75024.

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QUESTION BOX: Ralph Robinson, P. O. Box 9, Naples, NY 14512. *E-mail* robsviolet@aol.com and Sue Haffner, 3015 Timmy Ave, Clovis, CA 93612-4849. *E-mail* sueh@csufresno.edu

MASTER VARIETY LIST:

MVL SUPPLEMENTS: will be published in the AVM. Send any correction and/or description of new cultivars with hybridizer's name to Joe Bruns, 1220 Stratford Lane, Hanover Park, IL 60130.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS: Sent to Associate Members and New Members only. Renewing members receive card on white protective cover of AVM.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE: AVSA Secretary, Nancy Hayes, 9 Cobblestone Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002-3003.

PLANT REGISTRATION: Janice Bruns, 1220 Stratford Ln., Hanover Park, IL 60203-2667. *E-mail* janice@qwip.net

QUESTIONS ON HYBRIDIZING: Dr. Jeff Smith, "In Search of New Violets" The Indiana Academy, Ball State University, Muncie, IN 47306. Web site: avsa.org

RESEARCH: Send suggested projects for scientific research or names of interested, qualified potential research personnel to Dr. Jeff Smith, 3014 W. Amherst Rd., Muncie, IN 47304.

SHOW ENTRY TAGS: 100 - $8.00 postpaid. Order from AVSA Office.

SHOW SCHEDULE APPROVER: For information on Shows, AVSA Awards and Approving Schedules write to: Meredith Hall, P. O. Box 370, Marlin, TX 76661. *E-mail* MHALL@worldissue.com. **Do not send Show Schedules by E-mail - this address is for information ONLY.**

TALLY TIME: Heather Menzel, 135 N. Main St., Yardley, PA 19067. *E-mail* hmenzel@erols.com

Prepay your dues for up to 3 years and receive Membership Discount:

$25 Individual (USA) 1 Year **$27.50 Individual (International) 1 Year**

$49 - 2 Years **$73 - 3 Years** **$53.00 - 2 Years** **$79.50 - 3 Years**

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African Violet MAGAZINE

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March • April FEB 2 8 2005 Volume 58 Number 2

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Milky Way Trail
Best Trailer 2004
AVSA National Show
Exhibited by: **Nelly Levine**
Hybridized by: **J. Stahl**
Semiminiature Trailer

Photo Credit: Winston J. Goretsky

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THE AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. ORG. 1946

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Every attempt is made to keep articles technically correct. Since the growing of fine African violets can be achieved in many ways, the methods and opinions expressed by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of AVSA.

President's Message

Dear AVSA Members,

Have you, like I, been waiting for spring? It's almost here, and soon we'll be able to feel the freshness of the breeze, see the trees "green up", and garden flowers begin to poke up through the soil. I hope your violets with their bright, cheery colors have helped you through the dreary, dark days of winter. Affiliate groups will soon start having their spring shows. Check the AVSA website, www.avsa.org, for announcements of shows planned for your area and visit, if you can. It will be well worth the effort, as a show can really lift your spirits.

Convention, with the national show, is just around the corner. The third week in April will be here before we know it. If you haven't sent in your registration yet, don't delay. You don't want to have to pay a late registration fee, nor do you want to miss the wonderful opportunity to see some gorgeous plants, enjoy the sights of the Cincinnati area, hear some interesting presentations, and share the fun and fellowship of other African violet enthusiasts. You can use the back cover of the January issue of the AVM or download a form from the website. All those who were able to get to Tucson last year had a grand time, and the Cincinnati folks are doing their best to match it this year.

Speaking of the Tucson convention, have you seen the convention CD made by Tom Glembocki for the AVSA Library Committee? I had it on my Christmas wish list, and my daughter gave it to me. It's beautiful. Tom did a super job putting it in the form of an e-book with images that change like pages turning in a book. It's available from the AVSA office and is a wonderful souvenir for those who were there, as well as a good reference for viewing the plants that were displayed at the show.

At the annual membership meeting coming up on Saturday, April 23rd, two amendments to the AVSA Bylaws will be voted upon. The purpose of one is to provide more time for the Nominating Committee to draw up a slate of officers and/or directors, while the purpose of the other is to combine two standing committees whose functions are very closely related. As members, you will be entitled to vote so read the proposed amendments in this issue (page 27), come to the annual meeting, and express your opinion.

Also in this issue is an article about Paul Sorano's visit to Russia, accompanied by several photographs. I visited the Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses in early December and talked with Paul about his trip. We put this article together and hope you enjoy reading about the similarities and differences between African violet growers there and here in the United States.

It seems that membership in AVSA internationally is growing, but membership here in the states is lagging. If every member gained a member, the Society would be thriving. You can help by giving a membership to a friend, neighbor, or fellow worker. They'll thank you and so will the Society. This year we are also trying to be better so if you have an idea of how we can improve, please share it. Write or speak to me at convention. I hope to see you there.

Happy Violeting,

Janet

Janet Riemer
President, AVSA

Editor's Notes

Ruth Rumsey
AVM Editor
2375 North Street
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Email: rrumsey@earthlink.net

If you attended the last few conventions, you have probably met our good friend from Russia, **Vladimir Kalgin**. **Paul Sorano**, of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, visited Russia last summer as Vladimir's guest and had a very exciting experience. You'll want to read all about Paul's trip in the article "A Violet Visit to Russia", on page 52 in this issue. Our President, **Janet Riemer**, visited with Paul and compiled this article for us.

The 2005 AVSA Convention in Cincinnati is just a few weeks away. Please take the time to register now if you have not already done so. I've heard such good comments about our hotel, the Drawbridge Inn, and the promise of an enormous national show. As our conventions are held in different parts of the country each year, we have the opportunity to meet members of AVSA that we may have spoken to or received email from in the past. It's nice to be able to put a face with a voice and name.

I'll be working the AVSA Sales Table, so please come by and introduce yourself. Jenny and I both look forward to spending time with our old friends at convention, and it's always nice to meet new violet people.

I've heard from **Georgene Albrecht**, our "A Family Portrait" columnist, about unusual symptoms affecting African violets and other Gesneriads all over the country. Speculation now suggests that it could be a viral infection of some sort. If you are experiencing distorted growth and color changes with no obvious cause, please let Georgene know. Her email address is georgena@verizon.net. In hoping to solve this mystery, Georgene would also like to acquire photos of infected plants.

The slate of Board Nominees for 2005 appears in this issue (page 42). These candidates will be voted on during the annual AVSA Membership Meeting in Cincinnati on April 23, 2005. The meeting is from 2:45 - 4:00 pm. Plan to stick around for the Open Forum. This is your opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions to help AVSA better serve you.

If you are getting ready to enter your local show or take a few entries to the national show, be sure to have a look at "Judging the Show Plant", on page 26 in this issue. I run this helpful guide, compiled by **Bill Foster** and **Mary Ann Corrigan**, in each March issue.

Also in each March issue, you'll find the entire list of "AVSA's Most Wanted" Vintage Violets (page 22), compiled by **Barbara Elkin**. These are the vintage plants currently being sought by AVSA members. If you are growing any of these "missing" plants, please let Barbara know.

Another constant in the March issue is the reprint of the AVM Advertising Guidelines. If you would like to advertise in this publication, please see the guidelines on page 58.

Thanks to the few Board Members who answered my plea for original articles. I appreciate it very much.

I hope to see you in Cincinnati!

Saturday Luncheon Auction

The 8th annual luncheon auction will take place on Friday, April 22, 2005. We need the help of our members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercials to make this auction successful. All monies raised are to benefit all of AVSA.

Won't you consider donating a violet-related item or craft to this coming auction? Hybridizers – donations of supplies or newly introduced plants or cuttings, as always, would be very much appreciated.

Your help insures the success of this auction. Anyone making a donation will receive special notice, and all donations and contributors will be acknowledged in the AVM. Remember you must attend the luncheon in order to attend the auction. Won't you join us?

Please let me know if you will be donating any items. A description of the item should be included with your notice. Many thanks for your help and support.

Edna Rourke, 99 Old Stratford Road, Shelton, CT 06484-6129
(203) 926-9716, email Apapillon@aol.com

Office Update

Jenny Daugereau
AVSA Office Manager
2375 North Street
Beaumont, TX 77702
Email: avsa@earthlink.net

It has been a long, cold winter and spring is fast on its way. At the AVSA office, we are looking forward to 2005 National Convention in the Greater Cincinnati area. The tours look to be very interesting and fun. Jim Owens has worked hard putting the tours together, and I know that you will enjoy them. Sign up for several and join the rest of us for a great time. I look forward to seeing you all in Cincinnati. Stop by the Registration table and say "hi".

AFFILIATES: If you have not signed up for your Affiliate Liability Insurance, you need to do so. Many meeting places require this insurance, and your club can purchase it from our office. If you have the insurance and need a Certificate of Proof, call the office 1-800-770-2872 for information on how to get it.

We get many calls for information on how to get the online updates for the First Class 2 program. If you own First Class 2 and you need to purchase a new online update, send payment of $10.00 to the office, and we will mail you a new password. Please put the password in a safe place because it is good for one year, and you will need it every time you update online. Make sure you keep your First Class 2 current. If you get behind, it takes quiet a while to download all the new data. A good time to update is after you receive the new issue of the African Violet Magazine. Let your magazine be a reminder to update. Joe Bruns does a great job of keeping this program current for our members. We appreciate all of his hard work.

On occasion, your magazine may not arrive in a timely manner. All of the magazines are mailed from the Beaumont Post Office on the same date. If you do not get your AVM within 20 days of the mailing date (i.e. January issue by January 20th, February 20th for our international members), it will be considered late. Contact the AVSA office by email if possible (avsa@earthlink.net), and we will arrange to have a replacement issue sent. No replacement issues will be sent before those dates unless, for some reason, your magazine arrives damaged, and then we will replace it at that time.

Attention: All AVSA Members

Due to **Mary Walbrick's** untimely death, a new chairman has been appointed for the **Building Maintenance Fund Committee**.
She is **Susan Hapner, 35 Ridge Point Dr., Chesterfield, MO 63017**.
Her email address is: **hapnersb@aol.com**.
Please send all donations to the Fund to Susan, effective immediately.
We will miss Mary's enthusiasm and warm friendliness.
Let's wish Susan all the best.

For Beginners

Sharon Holtzman
6971 Olentangy Lane
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"One Size Does Not Fit All"

With the coming of spring, one of the things I most look forward to is being able to attend the AVSA judged shows that are put on by the local African violet societies.

This year is especially wonderful for me because the AVSA National Convention will practically be right in my own backyard.

I can remember back when I began the hobby of growing African violets how amazed I was at seeing all of these gorgeous plants at the local shows. Of course, I wanted every one of them. It took me a couple years to realize that not all of those plants wanted me.

When I started out, the only fluorescent lighting that I had were two fixtures that were up in the rafters in my basement, and I ended up hanging plywood from chains for my shelves. Other than that, my only option was very shallow marble windowsills. I didn't give this any consideration as I was shopping for my new plants. After all, how much space can a couple dozen starter plants and a few dozen leaves take? I'm sure that back in the beginning I thought most of them would die before I needed to worry about it anyway. Was I ever in for a surprise!

Lining my windowsills with starter plants worked until I began waging war with my cats who, up to this point, had claimed this spot as their personal space. Little by little, these plants were moved to the hanging shelves in the basement. As the plants grew and grew and grew, I soon could fit no more than six mature plants on each of these two shelves.

That was quite a few plant stands ago, but I hope that I can offer a bit of advice to save future beginning African violet hobbyists from experiencing the same problems.

Standard African Violets

There can be a big difference in the size of a mature standard African violet. A small standard may only be 8" in diameter, a standard may reach around 12" to 14", but a large standard can reach a whopping 20" or more.

Before you buy that show plant that you must have, do stop and think where it will be growing in your home. If you do not have lighted plant shelves, will you have the space to accommodate one? In addition to thinking about how much space a large standard African violet needs, you will need to think about your light source. A large, strong growing African violet is going to need sufficient and dependable light to grow to it fullest potential, and natural light may not be your best choice.

When you see the large violets on the show benches, you know what you are getting when you buy starter plants or leaves of these varieties. Many times, you will find packets of leaves available for purchase that have little more than the name of the plant and bloom color in the way of information. It is a good idea to ask one of the people working the sales table if they can tell you just what "size" standard violet that particular one is. Without having to ask anyone, if you see an African violet leaf in a baggie, and that leaf is the size of your hand, you can be sure that it is not a "small" standard.

There is nothing more eye popping than a huge blooming African violet, but this size simply does not fit into everyone's growing location.

There is always room for a Miniature (or two or three)

Miniature and semiminiature African violets are just the sweetest things ever! A windowsill lined with these little charmers will delight anyone who sees them. Since these plants are groomed to maintain a diameter of not much more than 6" to keep them looking their best, they are ideal for apartment dwellers or those who either cannot or do not care to purchase lighted shelves.

In addition to the small size of the plants themselves, the

amount of growing supplies is small too .....small pots, less potting mix to store, less fertilizer to have to mix up. Yes, good things do come in small packages.

Trailing African violets will not disappoint

If you don't have the space for the large standard violets and you are not sure that you have the best natural light for even the miniatures, do give a "trailer" a try.

There are large trailers that, if given a chance, will claim a couple feet of growing space, but even these can be clipped back to a manageable size. The miniature and semi miniature trailers can easily be grown on any windowsill.

Another thing that trailers have going for them, especially important for beginning growers, is how well they do in natural light. Starting with a trailer or two gives the beginning grower the opportunity to experience some real success before deciding how much time and effort they feel they might want to devote to the hobby of growing African violets in the future.

Get Ready for Show Shopping

Now that you've looked around your house and know which type and size of these wonderful plants will best fit into your space, attend as many of those spring African violet shows as you can. You don't want to miss out on that "must have" African violet. ..... even the one that you know you don't have room for when you buy it.....ha!

Wishing all good growing.

PLACEMENT

by Joyce Kimbro • First Austin AVS

When I first joined the violet club after retiring, I was so excited my first violet show was coming up and I was asked to help on the Placement Committee. I thought this should be an easy job. I had two of the best teachers who grew lovely big violets and worked on the Placement Committee for many years.

I was told to pick up the plants after they were entered and carry them into the showroom. I started to carry two plants at a time into the room, but was called back and told that I needed to be extra careful when carrying the violets, to be careful with their leaves when placing them on the table, and place the plant with its best side forward so it would be facing the judges.

I was to carry one plant at a time, unless it was a semi-mini or a mini. I think I walked at least ten miles that day! After all the plants were entered, I thought that I was through, but next I was asked to check the spacing and placing of the plants, then place the ribbons on the tables that would separate each class. After that, I placed a card explaining the type of class it was, and I also checked to be sure that there was no soil or perlite on the table cloths.

By then, most everyone had left, and as I was about to get ready to leave, I learned that one more thing had to be done. With the show schedule in hand, I made sure that all the plants were entered in the right classes.

I was then asked to check the spacing of the plants one last time, so they looked their best and to make sure that all entry cards were folded.

As I was leaving I stopped and took one last look around and thought, what a beautiful showroom! And I had a part of making it look so beautiful!

From the Lone Star AV Council Newsletter

21ST ANNUAL
OPEN FORUM

What is AVSA doing correctly?
What could AVSA do better?
What does AVSA need to change?
How can AVSA make **your** membership more valuable to you?

This is your opportunity to speak your mind and share your ideas.

The AVSA Open Forum is your meeting. You can ask our Officers and Board members Why, How, When, or Whatever.

Change and improvement can result from ***your*** input.

We'll see you at the Annual Membership Meeting
April 23, 2005 • 2:45

In Search of New Violets

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One of the interesting things about the African violet species is that almost all of them are fully inter-fertile with each other and with today's hybrids. This ability to freely interbreed is one of the reasons why it's a difficulty to nail down exactly what is a "species" in African violets. Generally, different species are unable to interbreed and produce fertile offspring. This separation is the definition of a "biological species". If two organisms can't interbreed, they must be two different species. If the organisms can interbreed, they may be the same species. The qualifier is if they can interbreed under natural field conditions. We know that the species will interbreed in cultivation, but is this also true for the plants in the wild? Since we don't have this information, it's hard to say exactly where one African violet species stops and another starts.

There are a few cautions I would make concerning hybridizing with the species. *Saintpaulia shumensis* and *S. difficilis* are prone to self-pollinate and produce seeds on their own. When making crosses using these species as the seed parent, one should carefully remove the anthers as the flowers open to prevent self-pollination. *S. shumensis* and *S. nitida* have been reported to be partially or fully sterile with the other species. These two species are isolated geographically from the others in Tanzania and may represent plants that are further down the species separation pathway than the rest. *S. goetzeana* is very difficult to get to flower which would limit hybridizing work with this species. Beyond these qualifications, you should be able to use the species for hybridizing, crossing them together, or crossing them with cultivated hybrids. However, please keep careful records of your crosses. Scientists will need accurate records for future studies.

Q: *How would you suggest getting a blue thumbprint flower on mosaic variegation?*

A: This is a relatively easy cross, and you should reach your goal in two generations. I suggest that you use a blue thumbprint flower plant as the pollen parent and a good mosaic variegated plant as the seed parent. The blue flower color and the thumbprint pattern are both genetic dominants and will be passed on to the first generation (F1 plants). However, mosaic variegation needs to be treated as a genetic recessive. The F1 offspring will likely be 100% non-variegated, and about half should have the thumbprint pattern. Those that have the thumbprint pattern will probably have the blue color, but other colors might be possible. Take your best F1 blue thumbprint plant and use this plant as the pollen parent in a backcross to the original mosaic variegated seed parent. The backcross should give you a good percentage of mosaic variegated offspring. Roughly half of these offspring should have the thumbprint pattern. I would expect a good percent of these to also be in the blue flower color.

An even easier cross is to put blue thumbprint flowers on the other types of variegated foliage. In these cases, use the thumbprint plant as the pollen parent and the variegated plant as the seed parent. Since the other types of variegation are inherited maternally, most of the F1 offspring should be variegated. About half of these seedlings should have blue thumbprint flowers.

Q: *I've seen dot fantasy combined with thumbprint pattern, but can you also get thumbprints in puff fantasy?*

A: Yes, you should be able to combine puff fantasy (dark background with random "puffs" of a lighter color) with the thumbprint pattern. Crossing a puff fantasy plant with a thumbprint pattern plant should yield about 25% F1 offspring with the combination. It should not matter which is the seed parent and which is the pollen parent. The combination of these two traits could be very different and interesting. Be sure to send me a picture.

Q: *Is it possible to get a plant with full double flowers from a cross of two semi-doubles?*

A: Yes, it is possible, but it does seem like you are getting

something from nothing. After all, how can you get more petals than either parent had in their flowers? Actually, the percent of plants with double flowers from a cross of two semi-double flowers won't be as high as the percent with semi-double blooms. You might also get some single dropper flowers or single stick-tight flowers from this cross. While the double flower trait is a genetic dominant, there are other genes that control petal development from the extra stamens. These genes tend to be additive in that the physical expression of the petals changes when there are no dominant copies, one dominant copy, or two dominant copies. Full double flowers usually result if the plant has two dominant copies for petal expression in combination with the dominant for double flowers. These genes are also the reason that many plants with double flowers have sterility problems. The conversion of the stamens into petals results in few functional stamens with pollen. You can often use a double flowered plant successfully as the seed parent, but getting enough pollen to use them as the pollen parent in a cross can be challenging.

Q: *Can sports be used as parents in hybridizing?*

A: I think your underlying question is about the genetic stability of a sport when used as a parent. Will the sport pass on its new traits or the original plant's traits? I would expect the sport to pass on the new traits in most cases. The changes that are apparent in the sport have a genetic basis; therefore, these traits should be transmitted to the offspring. Many of our modern leaf and flower traits have their origins in sports. Since these traits were passed on to offspring, I would expect a new sport to behave in the same manner. Getting the new trait expressed in the offspring is another matter and may require inbreeding to reinforce the trait and get it expressed. If you have a sport with a desirable trait, try hybridizing with this plant and see what happens.

Q: *Why is it difficult to hybridize with green colored flowers?*

A: I would speculate that it is because the flowers are too "leaf-like" for good fertility. All flower parts are thought to be highly modified leaves. In the case of green flowers, the modification is less complete. The green color is due to chlorophyll just as it is in leaves. I've also observed stomata, the pores in leaves for gas exchange on green flower petals. This "leaf-like" tendency may carry over to the reproductive parts of the flower, preventing them from developing pollen and eggs like other flower colors.

DIFFERENT WAYS OF PROPAGATING AFRICAN VIOLETS

by Sue Gardner

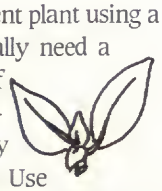
Propagating from a leaf is the most common and easiest way to propagate African violets, but there are three other methods that are also regularly used.

1. From a side shoot or sucker. This is a useful way to obtain a small plant quickly. It is also the simplest way to propagate chimeras successfully.
2. From a crown or center of a plant. This method is used when a long neck has developed or when root rot has infected a plant.
3. From a flower stalk. This is also a method used to propagate chimeras.

Write the name of the plant on the side of a small pot. Fill with potting mix, water with a solution of Plant Starter, and drain well. Prepare the section of plant for propagation as follows:

Side Shoot

A sucker is carefully removed from the parent plant using a pencil or other tool. To be successful, you really need a sucker with at least two leaves, each the size of a five cent coin. Make a small hole in the potting mix and place the sucker there. You may have to pin the plant down to keep it upright. Use hairpins or plastic covered wire bent to a U shape. Place in a plastic bag, seal, and keep in a warm light position.

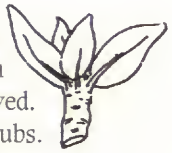


Flower Stalk

A main flower stalk with two small leaves is cut at an angle about 2.5 cm (1") long. All blooms and pedicels (small flower stalks) are removed. Plant the stalk into potting mix so that the two small leaves are just above the soil line. Place pot in a plastic bag and seal. Keep in warm light position and wait.

Crown Cutting

A crown is prepared by removing outside leaves until four or five remain. Roots and lower stem are cut off, leaving the stem about 3cm (1 1/4") long. If the plant has crown rot, make sure all affected areas are removed. Scrape the stem gently to remove leaf stubs. Lightly brush some rooting powder on the stem. This is useful as it contains a fungicide to prevent rotting. Make a hole in the potting mix with your finger and plant the crown so that the lower leaves are level with the rim of the pot. Place the pot in a plastic bag, seal, and keep in a warm light place.



From the *Culture Book* of the Early Morn AV Group, Australia

Question Box

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Hello, violet friends. I hope you and your plants are doing well. I was pleased to receive some follow-up from the question in my last column regarding plant labels. Jane Merritt, Colquitt, GA, wrote to say that she uses the plastic label maker device. She sticks one end of the tape label in the soil, letting the other end hang over the edge of the pot. Even if the print fades, you can still read the raised letters. Bill Paauwe, who compiles the annual index for this journal, emailed to say that he uses 1 1/2" by 5 1/2" "labels, writing the plant name across the narrow side, cutting it off, using the rest of the label for the next plant. (His wife alerted him to these labels, which she used when she was still nursing. They were used on the spines of patients' charts.) Bill even sent me some samples. Thanks, Bill! If you want more information about these labels, get in touch with me or Bill.

QUESTION: *I am writing you for my mother who has grown violets for years with great success. She recently bought a Petrocosmea "Momo" and is wondering about the history of the plant and if she is doing something wrong, as the plant loses flowers shortly after the blossom opens.*

ANSWER: Petrocosmea is the 'cousin' that tends to resemble the African violet more than do most of the other gesneriads, being a fairly small, rosette-shaped plant. The genus hails from the mountainous regions of Southeast Asia and China where they are accustomed to cool-to-average temperatures at night. They could probably be described as Alpine gesneriads. Petrocosmea "Momo" is a hybrid of P. flaccida and P. naevosa, created by Nagahide Nakayama in Japan. The name "Momo", I have heard, comes from a lucky expression in Japanese. I've tried petrocosmeas a few times, with mixed results, but have finally been able to keep one going for awhile. It is likely that most petrocosmeas are seasonal growers and thus should be kept cooler, a bit dry, and completely unfertilized during the winter. At the least, stop fertilizing it if you are growing it on a cool windowsill. (You didn't say whether your mom grows her plants under lights or on windowsills.) Most gesneriads grown in natural light, as opposed to the consistency of artificial lights, will tend to be seasonal in their growth and will slow down or stop growing entirely in the winter. Even during their growing season, petrocosmeas seem to be slow growers, and should probably be fertilized less that most other gesneriads. As to the premature blossom-drop that your mom has observed, it may be that the plant needs to get adjusted to her growing conditions. Or it may be that petrocosmeas don't hold their blossoms for as long as most violets do. Let me know how your mom's plant is doing now; I'd really like to know.

QUESTION: *Someone told me that if I wanted to grow big African violets – like the big prize winners I see in the violet shows – I need to pot my plants in big pots. So I shifted some of my plants into bigger pots, but they don't seem to be doing well. What's the story?*

ANSWER: It sounds like you may have over-potted these plants. You may have heard the general rule: the ratio of pot size to leaf span is 1 : 3. That is, a plant with a nine-inch diameter should be in a three-inch pot. Over-potting can cause suckering, rotting of lower leaves or crown, and retarded blooming. It can even bring about the demise of the plant, as the roots struggle against the large, saturated soil mass. They can literally suffocate. Those large show plants you saw can only be achieved by progressive repotting. That means moving the plant up one pot size at a time as it grows. Some fast growing varieties will require repotting every eight weeks, others only twice a year. Remember, too, that not all varieties have the potential for growing large. Check the large standard plants that are show winners year after year and choose from among them. Then, be systematic about potting up and about feeding. Good luck!

QUESTION: *Do violets just naturally produce seed pots by themselves? I just found two on one of my plants, and I was surprised.*

ANSWER: It sounds like there's been some unscheduled activity among your plants! It is likely that something dislodged the pollen so that it came in contact with the stigma at a time when it was ripe. It might have been a flying insect, or it might have happened when you moved the plant. If the seed pod matures – which takes at least several months, sometimes as much as six or seven – let it stay on the plant until it withers

and dries up. Once it has dried up, it should be removed from the plant. It's a good idea to put the seed pod in a paper envelope and keep it in a dry place for several weeks before sowing the seed. This question reminds me of a story told by longtime violet grower, teacher, and judge, Ruth Jo McCoy. It seemed that, whenever she was working in her plant room, her two cats kept her company, intently watching her every move. She began to notice that a lot of seed pods were forming on the violets that were on her lowest plant shelf, one that was barely above floor level. What could be doing this, she wondered. Then she noticed that, as her cats watched her, they were lashing their fluffy tails back and forth over the plants on that low shelf. The mystery pollinators were identified!

QUESTION: *How long should a violet live and do well?*

ANSWER: That's a very good question. I suppose that, if the grower is willing to work with the plant and give it what it needs, a violet could go on and on. One member of my club kept an old "no-name" pink violet going for years. The plant meant a lot to her because it had been a gift from her daughter. Despite having a long neck, it looked healthy and seemed to be always in bloom. Periodically, though, a violet has to be refurbished, so to speak: pulled out of the pot, old soil crumbled off, outer row of leaves removed, stem scraped, and the plant potted deeper in the proper sized pot in fresh soil. Plants with especially long necks should be decapitated and the crown re-rooted. Some varieties will lose vigor over time, but there do seem to be exceptions. I guess it's in the eye of the beholder. If the plant continues to please the grower, who's to say that he or she should give up on it.

QUESTION: *I bought a bag of African violet potting soil at a local garden shop. On opening the plastic bag, I noticed tiny, black insects flying out. What are these bugs, and how can I eliminate them and use the soil?*

ANSWER: Most likely you have fungus gnats in the mix. They are a nuisance that live and breed in mixes that are high in peat moss. The gnats themselves are not harmful to your plants, but their larvae have been known to eat the plant roots and burrow into the main stem. To eliminate the gnats, you will have to sterilize the soil in your oven or microwave. I haven't used a microwave for this, but the oven technique is as follows. Use a disposable roasting pan, put a two-inch layer of soil in it, moisten, and bake for an hour at 200 degrees. This should get rid of the gnats in the short run. However, you may have gnats already in your pots if you've used that same brand of potting mix before. I read about a treatment that I haven't tried personally, so I can't vouch for it. Add a teaspoon of chlorine bleach to a quart of water and submerge the pot up to its rim in a container of this solution. Do not let the solution touch the leaves of the plant. Allow it to soak for an hour. Drain thoroughly and water from the top with clear water. There are chemicals devised specifically for gnats, but I would try the less toxic methods first.

QUESTION: *I have tried disbudding several of my miniature African violets and ended up with not much bloom at show time. Some seemed to sucker more than usual, also. What did I do wrong?*

ANSWER: Disbudding miniatures is a subject that always arouses a lot of discussion. When I was new in the hobby, the conventional wisdom was that it was a risky procedure. Many of those early mini hybrids didn't react very well to the practice and responded with suckering. Now, most people growing for show are not reluctant to at least give it a try. It's important, though, to do it properly. Try out a plant first; don't disbud it for the first time when you are planning on entering it in a show. Some varieties still tolerate disbudding better than others. The rule of thumb has been to disbud single blossom plants for up to six weeks before show and doubles for up to eight weeks before show. To determine how much time to allow for a particular hybrid, you can experiment with another specimen of the same plant. Disbud the control plant early in the year and record the number of days it takes to re-flower. Then do the same for the second plant that many days before the show. Disbudding can stress a plant, and disbudding repeatedly might delay flowering a bit longer and could result in smaller flowers. If you don't have two plants of the variety in question, you could let one flower stalk develop and time it until it is in full bloom. Keep records. This will help you with other mini varieties, as well.

QUESTION: *Help! How can I keep my cat out of my plants? Not only does she lounge between the plants in the light garden, she nibbles on the leaves, as well. Can they make her sick?*

ANSWER: I had to laugh with recognition at this question. What is it with cats and plants? Even cactus growers complain that their cats won't leave the plants alone. First off, if your kitty recognizes that the plant room and its contents are special to you, she is likely to decide that they are special to her, as well. Also, if she has access to the plant room and those nice warm lights, who could blame her for selecting one of the shelves as a place to laze the day away? After all, cats sleep eighteen to twenty hours a day. What a life! If you can close the plant room door, do so. Some growers drape the light garden in plastic drop cloths, which serves several purposes, deterring kitty's attention among them. You could also use some of that plastic netting material made to protect fruit trees from birds. There is also a stretchy trellis-like item that you can find in the garden catalogs which should be an effective barrier. Doesn't it seem silly that we have to work so hard to outsmart a creature whose brain is so much smaller than ours? As to whether the plants could harm pets, I haven't heard that any gesneriad is toxic, except if the plant has absorbed whatever systemic pesticide it might have been treated with. To be safe, keep your pets away from the plants.

"And the winners are ..."

Mary J. Corondan
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Plano, TX 75024

AVC OF GREATER ATLANTA, GA – Winners: Best in Show/Best Trailer: Pixie Blue, **Jeanette Wallace.** Best Semiminiature: Teen Thunder; Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Laura Walker.** Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Abby'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Kathy Spissman.**

AV COUNCIL OF FLORIDA, FL – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Lucien Croteau, Party Print; Best in Show/Best Standard: Lucien Croteau, **Nancy Kast.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Louisiana, Chicago Flair, Peach Puff; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Outer Orbit; Best Species: *Saintpaulia* House of Amani; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Phyllis King.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Faded Rose, Cheers, Rob's Antique Rose, **Jay Sespico.** Best Semiminiature: Raspberry Sizzle; Best Miniature: Aly's Blizzard Bunny, **Christel Collier.** Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Gesneriad: *Smithiantha* 'Junko', **Bobbi Johannsen.** Best Design, **Mary Lou Harden.** Design Sweepstakes, **Bob Green.**

AV COUNCIL OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA – Winners: Best in Show/Best Standard: Marshlands; Best Trailer: Rob's Lilli Pilli; Best Gesneriad: *Episcia*, **Leonard Re.** Best Semiminiature: Thunder Surprise, **Hans Inpijn.** Best Miniature: Rob's Squeeze Toy; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Karen Stevenson.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha,* **Nancy Di Paola.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Leslie Cox.**

ALL SEASONS AVC, MA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Wild Irish Rose, Buckeye Cranberry Sparkler, Blackie Bryant; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Milky Way Trail, In Love Again, Falling Star, **Nancy Manozzi.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Snuggles, Rob's Mad Cat, Optimara Little Cherokee; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Planet Kid; Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose, **Zelda Owens.** Best Semiminiature: Katia; Best Trailer: Biscayne Trail, **Sharon Rosenweig.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia ionantha*, **Carol Hess.** Best Gesneriad: *Episcia* 'Kee Wee', **Marie Montague.** Best Design, **Cheryl Salatino.**

AVS OF PHILADELPHIA, PA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Coral Sunset, Private Dancer, Fall Colors; Best Semiminiature: Ethidium Red; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Judith Smith.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Genetic Heir, **Elizabeth Branson.** Best Trailer: Cirelda; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Marianne Gershon.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa* Mather #10, **Margaret Cass.** Best Gesneriad: *Kohleria* 'Kapo', **Charlene Marietti.**

CEDAR VALLEY AVC, IA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Aca's Canadian Wonder, Apache Rainmaker, Red Ribbons; Best Standard: Aca's Canadian Wonder; Best Species: *Saintpaulia pendula*; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Thompson.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Pat Champagne, Ness' Satin Rose, Rob's Hallucination; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Petite Blarney; Best Trailer: Milky Way Trail; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Jan Tyler-Blanchard.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Ness' Crinkle Blue, Optimara Little Blackfoot, **Carol Tjaden.** Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea begoniafoli*, **Barbara Pershing.**

DELTA GESNERIAD AND AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Neon Fantasy, Optimara EverGrace, Favorite Child; Best in Show/Best Standard: Neon Fantasy; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Cindi Nofzinger.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Lyon's Plum Pudding, Aca's Coral Beauty, Optimara Wyoming, **Oscar Faoro.** Best Semiminiature: Ness' Crinkle Blue; Best Miniature: Optimara Little Amethyst; Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299*, **June Fallaw.** Best Trailer: Pixie Love; Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Barbara Elkin.**

GEORGIA AV JUDGES SOCIETY, GA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Beauty, Buckeye Calico, Buckeye Crackerjack; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: California Sunset, Pink Skies, Teen Sweetheart; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Honey Puff, **Janice Norton.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Cranberry Swirl, Pat Champagne, Precious Pink; Best Miniature: Rob's Thingamajig; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Catherine Carter.** Best Trailer: Rob's Willawong, **Jerry Norton.** Best Gesneriad: *Columnea* 'Light Prince', **Lois Duvall.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Mel Landry.**

LONE STAR AV COUNCIL, TX – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Buckeye Love's Caress, Chicago Flair, Phantom Flash, **William Sugg.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Favorite Child, Buffalo Hunt, Ness' Candy Pink; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Definitely Darryl, Hector; Best Standard: Wrangler's El Diablo; Best Miniature: Sassy Wonder, **Richard Nicholas.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Dean's Sonata, Red Bandito, Ness'

Cranberry Swirl; Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Red Bandito, **Anne Nicholas.** Best Trailer: Pixie Runaround, **Hortense Pittman.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299*, **Delores Gibbs.** Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Gloria', **Marjorie Bullard.** Best Design, **Ruth Goeke.** Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ken Froboese.** Design Sweepstakes, **Jane Rexilius.**

MID-AMERICA AVS, KS – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Favorite Child, Picasso; Best in Show/Best Miniature: Orchard's Bumble Magnet; Best Standard: Ma's Silk Flower; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Calypso Beat, **Lynn Canning.** Best Trailer: Pink Star Lou; Best Species: *Saintpaulia confusa*; Best Gesneriad: *Streptocarpus* 'Bristol's Black Jacket'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Sue Hill.** Best Design, **Dona Stilwell.** Design Sweepstakes, **Raymond Russell.**

MID-ATLANTIC AVS, MD – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Christine, Morning Thunder, Ozio, **Carol Hamelink.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Fuddy Duddy, Rob's Antique Rose; *Aeschynanthus* 'Splendidus', **Ralph Robinson.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Optimara Little Ottawa, Rob's Pink Puff, Winnergreen, **Barbara Stewart.** Best in Show/Best Standard: Tomahawk, **Dianne Good.** Best Semiminiature: Rob's Inner Orbit: Best Miniature: Rob's Rinky Dink; Best Trailer: Fairy Fountains; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Linda Abplanalp.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia intermedia*, **Marianne Gershon.** Best Design, **Rosemary Maculuso.** Design Sweepstakes, **Olive Ma Robinson.**

NEW YORK STATE AVS, INC., NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: B-Man's Delia, Picasso, B-Man's Corleone; Best in Show/Best Standard: Blue Boy, **Bruno Curcuruto.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Frosted Whisper, Rebel's Stormy Sky; Best Semiminiature: Plumberry Glow; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Beverly Williams.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Thunder Surprise, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Berry Shake; Best Miniature: Honey Blue Ace, **Ralph Robinson.** Best Trailer: Ellie Gardner, **Paul Kroll.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #237*; Best Gesneriad: *Nautilocalyx pemphidius*, **Ray Morrison.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki.**

NUTMEG STATE AVS, CT – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Viking Maiden, Red Ferrari, Harbor Blue; Best in Show/Best Standard: Red Ferrari; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Little Pueblo, **Ann Butler.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Optimara Chico, Optimara Seurat, Optimara Millenia; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ramblin' Moonbeam, Pixie Show-off, Champagne Pink; Best Miniature: Silly Girl; Best Trailer: Champagne Pink; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes; Design Sweepstakes, **Edna Rourke.** Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Keiko', **Donna Presnel.**

OHIO STATE AVS, OH – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Frozen in Time; Optimara EverHarmony; Optimara Hiroshige; 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Classic Rock, Plumberry Glow, Rob's Berry Shake; Best Standard: Frozen in Time; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Martha Bell.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: *Saintpaulia velutina, Saintpaulia grandifolia #299, Saintpaulia ionantha*; Best Design, **Olive Robinson.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Rob's Calypso Beat, Rob's Boogie Woogie, Rob's Heat Wave; Best Semiminiature: Rob's Boogie Woogie; Best Miniature: Rob's Doohickey, **Ralph Robinson.** Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Species: *Saintpaulia brevipilosa* Mather #10; *Streptocarpus* 'Kansas City O', **Dr. Jeff Smith.** Design Sweepstakes, **Mary Everling.**

SWEET WATER AVS, NY – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection; Wild Irish Rose, Optimara Van Gogh, Optimara Dominica; Best in Show/Best Standard: Wild Irish Rose; Best Gesneriad: *Chirita* 'Diane Marie'; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Joyce Rodler.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Heavenly Notes, Rebel's Corabella, Optimara Van Gogh, **William Paauwe.** Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Thunder Surprise, Oksana, Snuggles Busy Bee, **Jeanne Damaso.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Crinkle Blue, Blue Silhouette, Irish Flirt; Best Semiminiature: April Romeo; Best Miniature: Frosted Denim, **Carolyn Klein.** Best Trailer: Chantaspring, **Eileen Montgomery.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #299.* Best Species: *Saintpaulia grandifolia #295*, **Eleanore Hull.** Best Design; Design Sweepstakes, **Marilyn Heinrich.**

THOUSAND OAKS AVS, CA – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ness' Sizzlin' Pink, Optimara Harlequin, Frozen in Time; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Definitely Darryl, Ness Cranbery Swirl, Pride of Columbus. Best in Show/Best Semiminiature: Pride of Columbus; Best Standard: The Alps; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Carroll Gealy.** Best Gesneriad: *xSmithicodonia* 'Elizabeth', **Leslie Cox.** Best Design, **Barbara Burde.** Design Sweepstakes, **Judy Anderson.**

TRI-STATE AV COUNCIL, NJ – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Harbor Blue, Optimara EverGrace, Optimara EverPraise; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Ness' Sno Fun, Dean's Cupid, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Best in Show/Best Standard: Apache Thunderbolt; Best Semiminiature: Dean's Cupid; Best Miniature: Petite Jewel; Best Trailer: Rob's Boolaroo; Best Design, **Robert Kurzynski.** 2nd Best AVSA Standard Collection: Picasso, Wild Irish Rose, Ma's Debutante, **David Tooker.** 2nd Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Magic Blue, Rob's Dust Storm, Rob's Fuddy Duddy; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Ron Ennis.** Best Species: *Saintpaulia rupicola*, **Jill Fischer.** Best Gesneriad: *Petrocosmea minor*; Design Sweepstakes, **Karyn Cichocki.**

WANDERING AV ENTHUSIASTS SOCIETY, MO – Winners: Best AVSA Standard Collection: Ramblin' Lace, Shiawasee Trail, Honeysuckle Rose; Best AVSA Mini/Semi Collection: Irish Flirt, Sassy Sister, Rob's Gray Ghost; Best in Show/Best Trailer: Candy Fountain; Best Species: *Saintpaulia orbicularis* var. *purpurea*, **Sherlene Jones.** Best Standard: Designer Dress; Best Design; Horticulture Sweepstakes, **Gloria Beals.** Best Semiminiature: Little Houston, **Pat Dunlap.** Best Gesneriad: *xSmithicodonia* Dunlap hybrid 66A, **Gary Dunlap.** Design Sweepstakes, **(tie) Gary and Pat Dunlap.**

Tally Time 2004

Heather Menzel
135 North Main Street • Yardley, PA 19067

Tally Time is a summary of the varieties receiving the greatest number of total awards from the state and local shows during 2004. This year it is based on 90 reports from six geographical areas.

This is my first Tally Time, and it has been both an interesting and stimulating project. I wish to thank Anna Jean Landgren for her help in this transition and for her dedication in authoring these articles for some fifteen years.

STANDARDS

Total Number of Awards	Number Best in Show	Number Second Best	Variety Hybridizer, Registration No.	Number of Collection Awards	Best Standard, Mini, SM, Trailer or Species
24	4	0	**Picasso** M. Trembly #6924	17	3
17	3	2	**Frozen in Time** S. Sorano #9167	7	5
13	2	1	**Wild Irish Rose** S. Sorano #8568	6	4
9	3	0	**Tiger** I. Fredette #3433	4	2

SEMIMINIATURES

30	3	1	**Ness' Crinkle Blue** D. Ness #8136	16	10
22	1	3	**Rob's Boogie Woogie** R. Robinson #8606	12	6
13	1	0	**Rob's Fuddy Duddy** R. Robinson #7886	10	2
12	0	0	**Rob's Antique Rose** R. Robinson #8451	9	3
10	0	0	**Irish Flirt** S. Sorano #7577	9	1
9	0	0	**Rob's Heat Wave** R. Robinson #7887	7	2

MINIATURES

22	2	2	**Orchard's Bumble Magnet** R. Wilson #8479	7	11
5	0	0	**Ness' Angel Babe** D. Ness #7821	1	4
5	0	2	**Petite Jewel** H. Pittman #7085	0	3
5	0	0	**Rob's Jitterbug** R. Robinson #8876	2	3

TRAILERS

7	0	1	**Rob's Boolaroo** R. Robinson #8053	1	5
6	0	0	**Milky Way Trail** J. Stahl #7169	3	3
6	1	0	**Pixie Blue** L. Lyon #2598	0	5
6	1	0	**Rob's Gundaroo** R. Robinson #9294	1	4

SAINTPAULIA SPECIES					
15	0	1	*Saintpaulia ionantha* S5	2	12
13	0	0	*Saintpaulia rupicola* S106	1	12
10	1	0	*Saintpaulia velutina* S11	2	7
7	0	0	*Saintpaulia grandifolia #237* S7	1	6
7	0	0	*Saintpaulia grandifolia #299* S7a	3	4

The following table shows the relationship between the award winners by geographical regions

Geographical Region
Region I California (8), Colorado (1), New Mexico (1)
Region II Iowa (3), Illinois (2), Minnesota (3), Missouri (6), Nebraska (1), Ohio (5), South Dakota (1)
Region III Connecticut (5), Delaware (1), Massachusetts (2), New Hampshire (1), New Jersey (7), New York (7), Pennsylvania (1)
Region IV Louisiana (1), Oklahoma (1), Texas (9)
Region V Alabama (1), Florida (7), Georgia (3), Maryland (1), North Carolina (1), Tennessee (1), Virginia (1)
Region VI Alberta (1), New Brunswick (1), Ontario (3), Quebec (1)

Variety	Total Number of Awards	Geographical Divisions I	II	III	IV	V	VI
STANDARDS							
Picasso	24	1	5	8	2	4	4
Frozen in Time	17	1	6	3	4	2	1
Wild Irish Rose	13	0	0	10	0	0	3
Tiger	9	0	0	2	1	6	0
SEMIMINIATURES							
Ness' Crinkle Blue	**30**	**3**	**13**	**8**	**0**	**5**	**1**
Rob's Boogie Woogie	22	0	12	6	0	4	0
Rob's Fuddy Duddy	13	0	2	6	3	2	0
Rob's Antique Rose	12	0	1	4	0	6	1
Irish Flirt	10	0	4	4	0	2	0
Rob's Heat Wave	9	0	6	2	0	1	0
MINIATURES							
Orchard's Bumble Magnet	22	0	10	8	0	1	3
Ness' Angel Babe	5	0	0	3	0	2	0
Petite Jewel	5	2	1	2	0	0	0
Rob's Jitterbug	5	0	3	1	0	1	0
TRAILERS							
Rob's Boolaroo	7	0	3	1	1	1	1
Milky Way Trail	6	1	3	2	0	0	0
Pixie Blue	6	1	1	1	0	2	1
Rob's Gundaroo	6	0	2	0	2	2	0
SAINTPAULIA SPECIES							
Saintpaulia ionantha	15	0	7	2	3	2	1
Saintpaulia rupicola	13	0	3	4	3	2	1
Saintpaulia velutina	10	1	1	2	0	5	1
Saintpaulia grandifolia #237	7	1	2	4	0	0	0
Saintpaulia grandifolia #299	7	1	1	4	1	0	0
Number of Winners	273	12	86	87	20	50	18
Number of Shows Reported	90	10	24	24	8	15	6

Other varieties winning five or more awards with a region

Geographical Region	Variety (Number of Awards)
II	Ode To Beauty (5), Smooch Me (8), Ness' Bangle Blue (6), Winnergreen (5)
III	Red Ferrari (5), Granger's Wonderland (5), Lela Marie (6)
IV	Red Bandito (8)
V	Rob's Outer Orbit (6)

DISBUDDING FOR SHOW

by Nancy Robitaille

Editor's Note: *While this works for the author, if you are having success with your show entries, you may not want to change your methods.*

Preparing for show is not difficult. Use your show date, or the date you must take your plants in for registration, as the target date. Use an updated calendar and count backwards.

My show date is May 29, count backwards to find 6 weeks before show date, in my case, April 17. Then count backwards for two more weeks (8 weeks before show date,) in my case, April 3.

On April 3 (8 weeks before show) all disbudding for standards with double flowers should stop. Allow all buds to bloom from this time.

On April 17 (6 weeks before show) stop disbudding all trailers, miniatures, and semi-minis as well as standards with single blossoms. Allow all buds to bloom from this point.

Back in May 1986, I wrote an article for *African Violet Magazine* titled, "Schedule for Disbudding Show Plants". I continue to follow this type of schedule to the letter each year with good results.

SHOW DATE: ___(fill in your date)___

You may start disbudding, cutting, or pinching off all flowers and buds at any time of the year. I prefer to do it in January after the holidays.

January: Strip bad leaves, check for suckers, disbud. Many growers disbud much, much earlier.

Make sure you have perfect symmetry. Count the tiny leaves of the center, searching for the second triangle of leaves, then the third until you develop perfect symmetry.

Some growers disbud all year around, allowing a flower to bloom only occasionally. Fertilizer: balanced, such as 20-20-20.

A balanced fertilizer is necessary so foliage will receive as much strength and growth as possible. Once foliage is placed and has good symmetry, you can concentrate on other things.

Twelve Weeks Before Show: ___(fill in your date)___

1. Reinforce placement of leaves using plastic coffee stirrers. These will hold leaves in place until they are trained.
2. Strip leaves from the last row if necessary: Take out those which are damaged or have more than two faults such as spots. Strip baby leaves, leaves which have a different, more rounded form than the other foliage.
3. Check for suckers. A plant with suckers will be eliminated from consideration for an award.

Ten Weeks Before Show: _____(fill in your date)_____

1. Increase light hours—one hour per week until lights are on 15 hours per day. Lights should be on for about 13 hours per day.
2. Carefully dust off bulbs making sure dust doesn't fall onto the plants.
3. Replace one florescent bulb of each fixture each year. Mark the year on the bulb so you know which to replace. New bulbs should be used only for a few hours the first time they are turned on so consider turning them on in the evening for only a few hours for the first time. The intense light could affect your plants if left on for the usual hours.
4. Fertilizer: Switch to high phosphorus (high middle number) such as Peters' 12-36-14 or Peters' 5-50-17 for variegates. Plants have been on a balanced fertilizer for feeding foliage since January.
5. Bathe plants two to three times a year with warm water, especially after final disbudding for show. Dry with paper towels or blow in center to get rid of excess water. Do not place near light until they are dry.
6. Water with bloom booster or foliar feed with products such as Superthrive.

Nine Weeks Before show: ____(fill in your date)___

1. Increase light hours to 14 hours per day.
2. Fertilizer: High phosphorus fertilizer (12-36-14 or 15-30-15, 5-50-17 for variegates)
3. Disbud variegates for the last time. Future buds should be allowed to bloom.
4. Foliar feed with fish fertilizer if any variegated plant is showing too much white in the leaves.
5. Check the centers of the plants carefully. As you increase the light hours, centers may show a reaction by tightening. You might place the plant in a different position on the light stand or take it off entirely for a day.

Eight Weeks Before Show: ____(fill in your date)___

1. Lights 15 hours per day.
2. Bloom booster or foliar feed—Superthrive or other product.
3. Final disbud for doubles. Future buds should be allowed to bloom
4. Final disbud for semi-double blossoms allowing buds to come into bloom.
5. Check for suckers.
6. Final disbud for variegates. Future buds should be allowed to bloom.
7. Foliar feed with bloom booster.

Seven Weeks Before Show: ___(fill in your date)___

1. Final disbud for trailers and double blossoms of semi-miniatures and miniature plants. Allow these to bloom.
2. Continue 15 hours per day.
3. Check carefully for suckers
4. Fertilizer: high phosphorus.

Six Weeks Before Show: ___(fill in your date)___

1. Lights continued at 15 hours per day.
2. Final disbudding for single blossom standards and all other plants. Allow future buds to bloom.
3. Check for suckers.
4. Bathe plant if needed.
5. Fertilizer: high phosphorus (middle number) such as 12-36-14, 15-30-15, or 5-50-17 for variegates. Consider using bloom booster in addition to fertilizer.
6. As blooms develop, you may wish to manipulate them to their best advantage by carefully pulling them up from under the foliage and toward the center.

One Week Before Show: ___(fill in your date)___

1. Lights 15 hours per day. If plants are not coming in fast enough, set lights for 16 hours per day.
2. If plants are blooming too quickly, reduce light hours. If necessary, place them in boxes with lids closed to reduce light. Allow for some air circulation.
3. Temperature: If room is too warm and plants are blooming too quickly, cool the room. If room is not warm enough and plants are sparse with flowers, increase the room's temperature.
4. Check carefully and remove all bloom stem stubs.
5. Check for suckers.
6. Check cleanliness.
7. Check that plant is in the dead-center of the pot.
8. Check that the pot is the proper color as dictated by the schedule. Check that name of variety and your name and phone number are listed under the pot.
9. Possible leaf or even row of leaves removed.
10. Brush leaves and leaf stems.
11. If main stem of plant is too high, add soil or cut off half an inch of the root ball to set plant down into pot.
12. Brush plant carefully using good light.
13. Bathe plants, if necessary.
14. Fill out registration of plants. The less work you have to do at the show room, the more relaxed you can be.

Twenty-four Hours Before Show: ____(fill in your date)___

1. Check for suckers.
2. Check for toothpicks, coffee stirrers, and other objects that are training the leaves.
3. Check for any possible signs of insect infestation.
4. Most growers travel to the site with foliage supports in place and remove them at the show room.
5. Remove plant from stand, water with STURDY which may help the plants from shock of transportation and change of environment.
6. Place in appropriate box using tape to anchor plants to box. Newspaper may be placed to support plant in box. Box should remain open for air circulation until time to transport to the show room.
7. Take a kit with you that contains tools such as brush for cleaning plant, pen for filling out registration, etc.
8. When you bring your prize-winning plants home, put them – or your whole plant room into isolation. Inspect carefully each few days for signs of pest. Protect your collection.

One Day After Show:

1. Take off your shoes, sit back, relax, have a refreshing cup of coffee or tea, and begin the mental plan of what you will take to next year's show!

Invitation to all Affiliates!

Bev Promersberger - *Affiliate Committee*
7992 Otis Way • Pensacola, FL 32506 • promers22@hotmail.com

Are you planning to attend the upcoming convention in the Cincinnati area? Does your club need help with publicity? If you want to get new ideas to publicize your meetings, shows, or sales, you will want to make sure to attend the Affiliate meeting. If your club needs ideas to attract attendance or just wants to know what other clubs find successful, we invite you to join us. All presidents, vice presidents, show chairmen, publicity chairmen, and interested affiliate members are encouraged to attend. We hope every affiliate will have at least one representative present at the meeting.

Friday, April 22 • 8:30 a.m.

The Affiliate meeting at the upcoming convention in Kentucky will again be combined with a breakfast. The program will feature ideas already shared with me by many affiliates as well as from those in attendance. Join us and share with other affiliate members your ideas and experience for increasing and adding interest to your club publicity. Whether you registered for the breakfast or not, everyone is welcome. We **want your questions**! WE **need your answers**! Please join us!

Don't be late! We are going to begin with a special drama presentation, an idea that can be used for a novel club program. You won't want to miss all the "Broadway" stars in action. We always have a good time. This year will be no exception.

Small Talk

Laurel D. Goretsky
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Is it spring yet? As March begins, I am longing for the warmth of the sun and the joy of knowing that the 2005 convention is just around the corner!

Do you consider yourself to be organized in the care of your miniature and semi miniature African violets? I am often asked how I manage to grow violets and care for two small children. Although doing both has its challenges, I feel that the key is being as organized as possible. Even if you don't have children, you might work outside of the home, have pets, or other responsibilities that keep you busy. It can be difficult finding time for your violets.

Anyone who grows more than just a few violets should regularly take stock of their collection and decide which violets to keep and which violets to say goodbye to. This is very hard for the avid grower, because sometimes each violet has a special reason for being on the shelf.

The next consideration in managing your collection is performance in your growing conditions. One of my favorite semiminiatures is 'Ness' Cranberry Swirl'. Unfortunately, I haven't succeeded in growing a nice plant yet. This would be a case where I would pass my plant along to someone who has different growing conditions than mine. I will still try and grow violets that might not do well for me at first; I will just choose different times to try them again but won't keep them forever if they are not thriving.

If you are anything like me, you will still have some violets that won't be for show or for sale. It is certainly okay to have some plants on your shelf that you keep for their beautiful bloom. You might also keep a violet because its name has a special meaning to you. Please keep those special violets. A part of the joy of growing African violets comes from having plants that evoke happy feelings and thoughts. My suggestion for becoming organized is that you make your collection a manageable size for you to easily care for.

We occasionally have a program at our local club on tips and techniques. Experienced and new growers can share ideas that have been of help to them in growing violets. One member shared that she has a calendar on which she marks the day(s) she watered. I thought this might help me to be more consistent in my watering and maintenance of my violets. With a calendar in tow, I tried to pick the best evening to attend to the needs of my plants. If I am busy on that evening, I alter my schedule to the evening before. Typically, I water, do any repotting that needs to be done, and remove dead blossoms and leaves on the same evening each week. I try to stick with the day before our garbage is collected so I don't have soil and dead leaves waiting to be disposed of. I also check my plants on the weekend and do a second watering on most of the minis and semiminis as they tend to dry out quickly in our growing conditions. I wick a few of the minis and semiminis that don't like to be dry too often. One task I do everyday is give my trailers a bit of a turn. Another tip from a member in our club is to buy a "lazy Susan", a little turntable that you can set your trailer on to lift it up a bit and to turn it easily. Anything that simplifies life is good.

Something else that has been helpful with the challenges of family life and growing African violets is noting the plants I have and making a list of the ones that I want to acquire. There have been many times when I purchased numerous plants, then came home and found that I had many of the same ones in leaf trays. This is frustrating when time and space are at a minimum. What I have done the last couple of years before a show and sale, or the convention, is go through my collection and write down a "most wanted" list. The excitement of the commercial sales room is sometimes overwhelming. You hear the buzz over a plant and you feel sure that you also need that one! Unfortunately, you may purchase a violet you already have at home or that your husband just purchased! I have prepared my list for the Cincinnati conven-

tion, and it includes 'Persian Prince' (last year's Best in Show), 'Rob's Squeeze Toy', and 'Rob's Outer Orbit'.

If you have a computer, I recommend that you purchase the First Class 2 program. You can order the program off the back of the AVM or from the AVSA Store on the website. Not only is the program useful for plant identification, but you can also use it to keep track of the plants you have and add personal notes about them. If you have any skill with a camera and the computer, you can also add photographs of your plants. The program also has many other uses that are helpful to any grower.

I love going to the conventions. I am always in awe of the amazing plants on display, and I enjoy talking to the top award winners and learning about their methods. Then, I often try to put new ideas into practice at home. It is fun to experiment with miniatures and semi miniatures, but make sure you chose just one or two plants on which to test those new techniques until you see how they react in your conditions.

Keep growing, keep learning, and keep loving your African violets. See you at the 2005 convention!

What's First About Cincinnati?

by Doris Moran

People unfamiliar with the Cincinnati area often ask, "What's so special about Cincinnati?" There are many noteworthy answers to that question so I decided to concentrate on Cincinnati firsts. Let's start with entertainment. Arguably the best known first for the Queen City is its establishment of the first professional baseball team - the Cincinnati Red Stockings (now known as the Reds) formed in 1869. Appropriately enough, the Red Stockings played the very first night baseball game (under lights) in 1935.

Other notable firsts in entertainment include: the first U.S. city to hold a municipal song festival - Saengerfest (1849), the first licensed Public television station - WCET TV (1954), and the first to publish greeting cards - Gibson Greeting Card Company (1850).

How about education? Hebrew Union College was the first Jewish theological college, established in 1875. The University of Cincinnati was the first municipal university in the United States (1870) and was also the first to offer cooperative education (1906).

Let's take a look at public services and industry. The first practical steam fire engine was in Cincinnati and was used by the first established municipal fire department (with the first fireman's pole, no less). The first weather bureau in the nation was established in Cincinnati in 1869. The Queen City was the first and only city to both build and own a major railroad. Also, it had the first woman entrepreneur (starting and operating a large manufacturing facility), Maria Longworth Nichols Storer, owner of Rookwood Pottery. By the way, Cincinnati was the first city in the U.S. to hold an annual industrial expo in 1870.

Finally, the first concrete skyscraper (the Ingalls Building) was built in 1902 and Daniel Carter Beard founded an organization which became known as the Boy Scouts of America. So if someone asks you, "What's so special about Cincinnati?" you can tell them.

All Cincinnati Firsts are courtesy of the Cincinnati Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

In Memory of Mary Walbrick

by Sue Ramser

The African violet world has lost another true friend and advocate. The sudden passing of Mary Walbrick of Wichita Falls, Texas, saddened local, state, national, and international violet growers. Mary passed away on January 10, 2005, after a brief illness. She had worked as a supervisor in Civil Service at Sheppard Air Force Base for 33 years.

Mary loved growing African violets and was a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for over 25 years. She was a Master Judge, a Life Member of AVSA, a member of Lone Star African Violet Council, and the North Texas African Violet Judges Council. She served in many offices in her local club and councils, including President, Vice President, and Newsletter Editor. She served AVSA as Ways and Means Chairman, Building Maintenance Fund Chairman, and as a member of the Membership and Promotions Committee.

Mary was active in the on-line African violet groups, always available to answer questions and help other African violet growers with their problems. Mary was always there with a helping hand whenever needed. She will truly be missed.

AVSA Building Maintenance Fund

Susan Hapner • 35 Ridge Point Dr. • Chesterfield, MO. 63017

Email: hapnersb@aol.com

Donations Received

December 2004

Albuquerque AVC, Albuquerque, NM $25.00
First AVS of Denton, Denton, TX 25.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Fox Valley AV Society, Yorkville, IL 50.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Lone Star AV Council, San Marcos, TX 25.00
In Memory of Alma Hummer
Lone Star AV Council, San Marcos, TX 25.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Missouri Valley AV Council,
Carl Junction, MO 25.00
Tristate African Violet Council, Lafayette, NJ ... 20.00
In Lieu of Judging Expenses: Laurel Brown, Janet Riemer, Florence Friedman & Susan Arnao
Union County Chapter AVS, Pennington, NJ ... 25.00
In Lieu of Speaker's Fee, Judy Padalino
Wichita AV Study Club, Wichita, KS 25.00
In Memory of Dick Cory
Violets of the West, Arvada, CO 3.00
Diane Adamo, Long Beach, NY 2.00
Elizabeth Burke, New Providence, NJ $5.00
Randy & Carla Deutsch, Sioux Falls, SD 5.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
E. C. Forcht, Arlington, TX. 20.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Maxine Garlick, Copperas Cove, TX 15.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Ann D. Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
Meredith Hall, Marlin, TX 50.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Ruth & Will Loomis, Flagstaff, AZ 50.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Mildred Ockey, Long Beach, NY 5.00
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Pittman, Celina, TX..... 50.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Sue Ramser, Wichita Falls, TX 25.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Janet Riemer, Pennington, NJ 25.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Jane Sherman, Westport, CT. 10.00
Mary D. Stallings, Fort Worth, TX 25.00
In Memory of Paul Foster
Roxanne L. Shrewsbury, Ellerbe, NC $25.00
Pat Sutton, Doris Carson, and Jeanne Cotton, Tulsa OK and Romona Darnell, Carl Junction, MO 25.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
Barbara D. Taswell-Miller, Raleigh, NC 25.00
TOTAL $615.00

January 2005

Corpus Christi AV Society,
Corpus Christi, TX $20.00
In Memory of Paula Foster
First Nighter AV Society, Marlin, TX..... 100.00
In Memory of Paula Foster, dear friend and member
Ohio State AV Society,
Yellow Springs, Ohio 100.00
In Memory of Frances Lane
Sweet Water AV Society, East Islip 15.00
Jim & Linda Owens, Columbus, OH 25.00
Aloha H. Rhodes, Manchaca, TX 50.00
TOTAL $310.00

Boyce Edens Research Fund

Marlene J. Buck • 17235 N. 106th Avenue • Sun City, AZ 85373-1958

Donations received from October 1, 2004 – November 30, 2004

Seattle AVS, Seattle, WA. $25.00
In memory of Nellie D. Sleeth, a dedicated member for 40 years
Montrose AVS, Glendale, CA 25.00
In memory of Mary Williams
Missouri Valley AV Council, St. Louis, MO . 10.00
In memory of Margaret Kline
Tustana AVS, Orange, CA. 10.00
In loving memory of Beverly Moffatt
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council 20.00
In memory of Margaret Kline
Brenda M. Brasfield, Olive Branch, MS.... 10.00
Martha Hart, Rochester, NY 20.00
Joan Baker, Thief River Falls, MN..... 3.00
Joan K. Wilson, Theresa, WI. 50.00
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN $10.00
Triangle AVS, Raleigh, NC 30.00
Piedmont Triad AVS, Greensboro, NC 30.00
Anne F. Tinari, Huntington Valley, PA 25.00
In loving memory of Paula Foster, a devoted long time member and constant contributor.
Tristate AV Council, NJ 10.00
In lieu of judge's expenses for Lee Gugliada & Lee Borey
Amethyst AV Club, St. Louis, MO..... 10.00
In memory of Margaret Kline, a long time member of our club
Albuquerque AV Club, Albuquerque, NM .. 25.00
Topeka AVS, Topeka, KS 25.00
In memory of Gloria Gary
Sweet Water AVS, East Islip, NY..... $15.00
Sundowner AV Club, Madison, WI 25.00
Conrad N. Nelson, Minneapolis, MN..... 3.00
Jim Gibbons, Aydlett, NC 5.00
George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX 5.00
Ann D. Gramstorff, Spring Hill, FL 5.00
Diane Adamo, Long Beach, NY 2.00
Mark C. Bander, Dewitt, MI 25.00
James J. Sandrik, Park Ridge, IL..... 5.00
Catherine Scheel, Plano, TX 25.00
In loving memory of Paula Foster
Jeannine Kouns, Fullerton, CA 25.00
Missouri Valley AV Council, MO 25.00
Missouri Valley AV Council,
Carl Junction, MO 25.00

AVSA Booster Fund

Shirley Berger • 4343 Schumacher Rd-196E • Sebring, FL 33872

CONTRIBUTIONS: October 1, 2004 – November 30, 2004

New York State Council of AV Judges $5.00
Peggy Casarella, Southington, CT 5.00
Eloise Thompson, Blacksburg, VA 4.00
Sam McKenna, Redwood City, CA 10.00
AVS of Morris County, Parsippany, NJ..... 20.00
Joanne Baker-Pruner, Pasadena, MD. 5.00
Agatha Garrison, Estancia, NM 5.00
Martha George, Oklahoma City, OK 10.00
Bill Meier, Saint Charles, IL 20.00
Betty L. Kellner, Woodstock, IL 10.00
Sarah Opie, Cornwall, England..... 5.00
Piedmont-Triad AVS, Greensboro, NC 30.00
First Lakeland AVS, Lakeland, FL. $50.00
AV Council of Florida, Bartow, FL. 100.00
AVS of Greater Tulsa,
Broken Arrow, OK 50.00
Gail Podany, Minnetonka, MN 10.00
Sundowners AVC, Madison, WI 25.00
Sheila A. Ando, West Windsor, NJ 5.00
George R. Stewart, Universal City, TX 5.00
AVS of Pensacola, Pensacola, FL 25.00
Patricia Headley, Toronto, Canada 2.00
Jenny Daugereau, Beaumont, TX 25.00
In memory of Paula Foster
Joyce and Kent Stork, Fremont, TX $25.00
In memory of Paula Foster
North Star AV Council,
Coon Rapids, MN 15.00
In memory of Paula Foster
Fay and Irwin Wagman, Pittsford, NJ 10.00
In memory of Paula Foster
Mid-Atlantic AVS, Annapolis, MD 500.00
AV Club of Morris County,
Parsippany, NJ 25.00
In lieu of speaker's fee: Janet Riemer
TOTAL $1001.00
CORRECTION:
Amy Cash-Allison, Montgomery, IL $10.00
In memory of Charlee Isaac

FERTILIZERS FACTS & MYTHS

by Jack Wilson • DeBary, Florida

It is easy to see how plant growers might become confused when shopping for fertilizers. We see a vast array of literally hundreds of different kinds of fertilizers offered in a variety of different forms. We are offered specialty fertilizers for our lawns, roses, cactus, houseplants, and of course, those for our African violets. I counted 168 different fertilizers at one of the large discount stores today. Many are often offered in several forms: liquid, granules, sticks, stakes, tablets, and pellets.

Despite the huge selection of fertilizers available, we can make the correct choice of a fertilizer if we know what the fertilizer's ingredients do for our plants. We need to know why plants need fertilizer, why there are so many products available, and finally how to select and use the correct fertilizer for our violets.

We all have read and heard that nitrogen in a fertilizer produces lush green growth, that phosphorus generates blossoms, and potassium promotes overall plant health. This oversimplification is very misleading. Plants, including our African violets, need all three of these basic primary nutrients to have green growth, good bloom, and good health. Without any of these basic ingredients, and other trace elements in small amounts, our plants won't grow and will slowly die.

Most fertilizers contain all three elements, the NPK formula, and are called a complete fertilizer. Labels are required to state the "guaranteed analysis" of the product along with their chemical sources. This is stated as a percentage. For instance, a 10-10-10 fertilizer would have equal parts (10%) of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

While you don't usually have to fertilize with equal amounts of the three basic ingredients, the basic crucial ingredient is nitrogen. It is listed by its chemical symbol N. Plants need plenty of it. In some soil mixes, nitrogen gets moved quickly by water through the soil. This reduces the ability of the roots to absorb it. Our plants use nitrogen to form proteins, chlorophyll, and enzymes for plant cells to live and reproduce. Nitrogen also combines with other nutrients to let them work. Without enough nitrogen we will see our plants' leaves yellowing and the plants become stunted.

Phosphorus (P) is utilized by the plants to produce early growth, roots, and seeds. Lack of phosphorus can result in a stunted plant, brown leaf tips, and seeds not developing properly.

Potassium (K) enables a plant to move sugars and starches throughout the plant. It helps the plant grow roots and resist disease. Leaf edges will brown, and the plant will grow slowly without adequate potassium.

Shopping for fertilizer is an interesting experience at our garden centers and discount chains. For instance, looking at fertilizers for tomatoes can be overwhelming. You might find twenty or so that mention use on tomatoes. You will find high-nitrogen ones with different formulas: 23-19-17, 23-15-18, 12-6-6, and 8-5-5. Also, high-phosphorus ones at: 7-40-6, 7-28-14, and 18-24-6. And high-potassium ones at: 18-18-21 and 9-4-17. There are also fertilizers with both high phosphorus and potassium: 10-20-20, and 5-10-10. Finally, there are some that contain equal amounts of all three elements: 14-14-14 and 15-15-15.

California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo did a study, funded by *Sunset* magazine, on the various fertilizer formulas and how many plants reacted to them. Their study on tomatoes, and many other plants, indicated that plants tolerate a wide range of nutrients in varying amounts. Tomatoes fruit quality and yield was virtually identical, no matter what formula of fertilizer was used.

I am currently rotating or using five fertilizers for my African violets and other gesneriads. They have formulas of 7-9-5, 5-50-17, 12-36-14, 14-12-14, and 18-6-12. How then, you ask, do we end up with so many different formulas for the same plants such as the African violet?

Fertilizer manufacturers evaluate what raw materials are available and their cost. They also believe their product should be different than all others on the market. Lastly, plant nutrition needs are examined.

What is the bottom line to all this information? African violets can not read labels on fertilizer containers so they won't know the difference if the can or jar says "rose", "vegetable", or African violet fertilizer. Find a formula, NPK, which you have used successfully on your plants and buy the cheapest product available. It will work as well as any others. You'll probably save yourself some money to spend on new violets.

Vintage Violets

Barbara Elkin
Vintage Violets Committee
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Auburn, CA 95602-9674
Email: bjabar@earthlink.net

I have been asked to write a short explanation about Vintage Violets and the purpose of this committee and column. Some folks have strange ideas as to the function of this committee. Vintage Violets is a committee that is trying to maintain and restore our African violet heritage. The word Vintage, as far as I am concerned, refers to a violet that is over ten years old. (I keep no records on plants younger than 10 years.) We keep a list of plants that are "Vintage", and that list is called the Vintage Violet master list. If you can't find your "old" plant, let me know. If I don't have it on the list, this committee will place it on the AVSA MOST WANTED List. If and when it shows up, I inform you as to its location.

It is my pleasant duty to read all the commercial catalogs I can get my hands on to glean out all of the older plants and add them to my master list. (These catalogs usually get me into all kinds of trouble). This list is a full 104 computer pages of the older violets and tells where they are being grown. My columns in the AVM are to stir up the members to tell me that they are growing older plants and what they are. (I am sorry to say few people tell me when they no longer have a certain plant.)

The most important function of this committee is to connect a plant with the person looking for it. The postal service is very good; however, email works best. If you inquire after a plant and I have it on my master list, I then tell you who is growing it. If I don't have a listing, then I add the request to the AVSA MOST WANTED listing in each issue of the AVM. If I connect you to a private, non commercial grower, it is proper etiquette to return the postage, asked for or not.

This issue of the AVM contains the entire AVSA Most Wanted list. Please read it carefully and let me know if you are growing any of these plants. Someone out there is looking for them.

AVSA Most Wanted

Abe Lincoln
Ablaze
Ace of Cedar Rapids
Adena
Adele
Adeline Krogman
Admiral Amazon
Aglitter
Alamo Stranger
Alan Anthony
Albert The Second
Albino Blue Eyes
Aliane
Alice Blue Gown
Alice Marie
Alice's Cochise
Alice's White Xmas
Allen Anthony
Alouette
Amazon Pink Delite
Amazon Pink Luster
America
American
American Beauty
Amethyst Sparks
Anafair
Andrea
Andy Griffiths
Angelic Lace
Anna Therese
Anne's Favorite Sport
Antique Bliss
Antique Elegance
Antique Mahogany
Apache Campfire
Apache Princess
Apple Valley
Apricot Frost
Arabesque
Arpege
Artic Blizzard
Artist Dream
Athena
Atlantic City
Audrey
Aunt Clara
Autumn Glow
Autumn Halo
Autumn Russet
Avalon
Azure Beauty
Azure Trinket
Baby Girl Spoon
Baby Helen
Baby Pink
Baby's Lace
Bagdad
Baker's Hot Lips
Ballet Carla
Ballet Eva
Ballet Grace
Ballet Helga
Ballet Inga
Ballet Meta
Bambino (Richter's)
Bashful Beauty
Bavaria
Beautiful Dreamer
Beautiful Vintage
Becky's Gypsy Trail
Bee Lee Tee
Bella Gitano
Belle's Spring Song
Behneke Boy
Bergen Strawberry Sherbet
Bernice
Betty Little
Beverly Sills
Billy "Crash" Craddock
Bing Cherry
Bishop
Blackberry Halo
Black Gold
Black Sabbath
Black Velvet
Black Waves
Blazing
Blizzard
Blue Albino Girl
Blueberry Halo
Blueberry Ruffles
Blue Bonnet
Blue Bouquet
Blue Buttercup
Blue Boutonniere
Blue Chips
Blue Dart
Blue Eyes
Blue Fandango
Blue Fling
Blue Heiress
Blue Le Fleur
Blue Morning Glory
Blue Nymph (Standard)
Blue Parade
Blue Peak
Blue Reverie
Blue Rosette
Blue Skies
Blue Velvet
Blue Warrior
Blue Wren
Bobby
Bonnice
Bonnie Lassy
Boyce Edens
Brilliant Lady
Bryte Angel
Bryte Bells
Bryte Glitter
Bryte Tips
Bryte Sensation
Bubblin' Over
Bud's Strike Me Pink
Buffy
Bulls Eye
Bunny Hop
Burgundy Bliss
Buttercup

Butterflies
Button Trinket
Buttons and Bows
Cafe Au Lait
Calico Kitten
California Cascade
California Giant
Camellia
Cameo Pink
Camouflage
Campanile
CandleLight
Candy Cane
Candy Stripe
Candy Dandy
Caravan Autumn Blaze
Caravan Emerald Ripple
Caravan Masterpiece
Caravan Pageant
Care Deeply
Caribbean
Carillion
Carnival Queen
Carousel Lady
Casu Small
Catherine
Cat's Meow
Celestial Butterfly
Cecile Ambler
Ceris
Chapel Boy
Cherokee Fire
Cherokee Rose
Cherubini
Chicopee
Chiffon Wasp
Chipper
Cinderella (Flower Pot)
Cinderella's Slipper
Cindy Darlene
Cinnamon Girl
Circus Circus
Circus Clown
Clementine
Clackamus Surprise
Clipper
Clipper Trail
Coca Cola
CoCo (Arndt)
Coconut Fluff
Colonial Pink
Colonial Tumby Bay
Colorama
Colibre
Color Splash
Columbella
Comanche Maid
Comet Trail
Conchita
Confessions
Constance Hansen
Constance Hansen Supreme
Copy Cat
Coral Cascade
Coral Cove
Coral Radiance
Coral Reef
Coral Satin
Coral Tips
Cordarama
Cordelia
Cornucopia
Cotton Balls
Cotton Bowl
Country Lilacs
Cranberry Ice
Creekside Moonbeams
Crème de Menthe
Crested Jewel
Crimson Glo
Crimsunny
Crown of Jewels
Crown of Red
Crusade Trail
Crystal Rose
Curley Q
Daddy's Girl
Dagmar
Dainty Doll
Dainty Maid
Daisy Doll
Dallas Pride
Dalliance
Danseuse
Daphne (High Hill)
Dark Angel
Dark Crystal
Dark Eyes
Dates Fanfare
Dates Jubilee
Barbara Cook
Dates Masterson Wasp
Dates Mastique
Dave Masterson
Dean's Velvet One
Deborah's Oh My
Deep Sea Treasure
Deleon Pixie
Deleon Posie
Desiree
Diane
Diana Ross
Dib's Thrill
Dingbat
Dippity Do
Disco Babe
Dixie Darling
Dixie Jewel
Dixie Snow
Dolly Dimples
Dominion Rose
Dominique
Donna Lee
Donna Lynn
Dora Lee
Dorothy Gray
Do's Jean
Double Cherry Soda
Double Duchess
Double Mini Orchid
Double Orchid Girl
Double Orchid Splendor
Double Pink Cameo
Double Pink Cloud
Double Seafoam
Double Take
Double Uncle Bob
Double Velvet Girl
Double Wild Rosa
Dresden China
Dress Blues
Dupont Purple
Dutchman
Dwarf ionantha
Easter Bonnet
Easter Egg
Edna Haugh
Edith's Toy
Edna's Joy
Eileen
Eleanor
Elizabethan Ruffles
Elsie
Elsted's Oakleaf Cluster
El Toro Supreme
Emma Lahr
Emperor Wilhelm
Eternal Snow
Etna
Etude
Evagene
Evelyn Johnson
Evergreen Sadie Lady
Eyeful
Fairy Image
Fairy Prince
Faith
Fall River Plum
Fancy Flirt
Fancy Pants
Fantasie Florale
Fantasic Fantasy
Fantasy Double Ann
Fantasy Lou
Fantasy Wasp
Fashion Frenzy
Festival
Fire Bugg
Fire Dance
First Recital
Fisher's Anne Marie
Fisher's Miss Muffit
Flamingo Girl
Flash back
Flash Dance
Fleur De Mais
Floral Fantasy
Ford's Pinwheel
Fox Run
Frathel's Debbie
Frathel's Most Precious
Fredette's Blue Jean
Fredette's Elita
Fredette's Sugar Blues
Fredette's Twilight Fantasy
Friendship
Frilled Blue
Frilled Orchid Rosette
Fringed Charm
Frivolous Class
Frosty
Fudge Marble
Galt Grape
Gay Confetti
Gay Coquette
Gay Miss
Gay Paree
Geane Marie
Genesee Silhouette
Genetic Dwarf
Geneva Rose
Geneva Trail
GiGi(not Rhapsodie)
Gilded Strawberry
Ginger
Glacier Point
Glow Baby
Goddess of Love
Golly Wog
Gorgeous Bicolor
Gorgeous One
Granger Gardens Angel Lace
Granger Gardens April Love
Granger Gardens Blue Empress
Granger Gardens Fuchsia Bride
Granger Gardens White Gold
Granger's Blue Fashionaire
Granger's Calais
Granger's Candyland
Granger's Charl
Granger's Cotillion
Granger's Eternal Snow
Granger's Fashionaire
Granger's Festival
Granger's Jim Dandy
Granger's Normandy
Granger's Peppermint
Granger's Rio Rita
Granger's Rose Ember
Granger's Rosemarie
Granger's Startler
Granger's Sugar Frost
Granger's Twilight Halo
Granger's Venetian Lace
Great Find
Great Scott
Great White Way
Green Crystal
Green Glo
Green Go
Green Hornet
Grenadier
Gypsy Charm
Half and Half
Handkerchief
Hawaiian Eye
Heather Mist
Heavenly Halo
Helen K
Helen VanPelt Wilson
Highbrow
Hobnail Pink
Holly Dolly
Holly Go Lightly
Holly Peach
Hortenses' Zapata
Hot Cargo
Hot Line
Hot Touch
Iceberg (Hammond?)
Illini Deb
Illini Gem
Inca Maid
Indian Girl
Indian Summer
Irene
Intensified Pride
Ivory Fashion
Ivory Venus
Jade
Jantien
Jasmini
Jazzy
Jeanmarie
Jeanne Cotton
Jeff's Jewel
Jennifer
Jillian (Fredette)
Jimmy Crack Corn
Joanne Cora
Jo's Velveteen
Jovanny
Josie
Joy Pink
Julie Ann
Julie Marie
Juline
Just Beautiful
Kansas City Chiefs
Kansas City Royals
Karen Linda
Karla Lou
Katja
Kay Russell
King Richard
Kismet
Kiss't
Knee High
Kramer's Easterling
Krista Lynn
Krisie
Kuhl's Parnassus
Kuhl's Pink Treasure
Kuhl's Roundelay
Kuhl's Tralie Rose
Lacy Girl
Lacy Laser
Lacy Red
Lady Alura
Lady Catherine
Lady Clara
Lady Constant
Lady Corinne
Lady Luck
Laredo Lad
Last Snow
Lasswell's Gay Ben
Lasswell's Gem Gem
Lasswell's Girl Friday
Lasswell's Glacier Peak
Lasswell's Sweetheart Sue
Laurinda
Lavender Blue
Lavender Elfin Girl
Lavender Lady
Lavender Love
Lavender Swirls
Leawalla
LeBaron
Legacy
Leprechaun Trail
Levittown
Liberty Bell
Lilac Lassie
Lilac Puff
Lilac Time - Behneke
Lilibelle
Linda's Love
Lithe Lassie
Lime Frost
Limelight
Lime Ricky
Lime Taffy
Linda's Love
Little Boy Blue
Little Busy Bee
Little Dee
Little Doe
Little Geneva Princess
Little Joan
Little Lois
Little Lou
Little Louie
Little Love
Little Lulu
Little Maroon
Little Miss Texas
Little Rascal
Little Red Wagon
Little Ruddy
Little Seabird
Lola
Lorna
Love Song
Lucky Duck
Lucky Stripe
Lulu Belle
Luxury
Lyndy Lou
Lynn
Lyon's Whisper Blue

Madison's Whisper Blue
Mammy
Manhattan
Manic Midnight
Marcella
Mardi Gras
Marie's Pacific Sunrise
Maroon Frost
Martha Martha
Marvin's Silver Girl
Mary Lou
Mary Louise
Maverick's Young Love
May Dance
Megan
Melly
Melodie Frances
Melodie Heather
Melodie Kristen
Michele
Michiko
Midnight Magic
Midnight Star
Mighty Mini
Mimi's Stars
Mindi's Tears
Mine Alone
Ming Rose
Ming White
Miss Liberty
Miss Wisconsin
Mohawk Trail
Monaco
Moonfire
Moonlight and Roses
Moon Moths
Moon Silver
Morea Surf
Mountain Blue Boy
Mountain Wildflowers
Mount Fuji
Ms Frizz
My Darling
My Desire
My Jubilation
My Lady Sue
My Spoon
Mysterium
Nadine
Nancy Ann
Naomi's Afterglow
Neon Rainbow
Niagara's Pink Beacon
Nobuko
Nola
Nona Weber
Nortex's Holiday Haven
Nosy Bouquet
October Seas
Odyssey
Old Blue Eyes (Mendoza)
On Edge
Ontario Sport
Optimara Angelica
Optimara Annie
Optimara Arkansas
Optimara Crater Lake
Optimara Little Cherokee
Optimara Louisiana
Optimara Nevada
Optimara North Dakota
Optimara Oregon
Orchid Beauty
Orchid Ripples
Oui Love
Pagan Fire
Painted Girl
Pam's Potpourri
Pansy Trail
Paragon
Parisianne Sport
Park Avenue
Patriot
Paul Bunyon
Paul's Pizzazz
Peach Frost
Peach Jubilee
Peach Ruffles
Peak of Pink
Peek A Boo
Peepers
Peggy Staat
Pennsylvania
Peppermint Candy
Peppermint Fling
Peppermint Fog
Peppermint Frost
Peter Pan
Pigmy or Pygmy
Pilgrim Maid
Pink Beauty
Pink Bottonaire
Pink Dresden
Pink Fingers
Pink Frosting
Pink Geneva
Pink Girl
Pink Mink
Pink Owl
Pink Proliffity
Pink Ruffled
Pink Velvet
Pink Viceroy
Pistachio
Plum Passion
Plum Tip
Pom Pom Delight
Pony Tail
Poodle Top
Popsicle
Pretty in Blue
Pretty Please
Princess Leia
Priscilla
Puerto Vallarta
Pure Innocence
Purple Enchantment
Purple Nautilus
Purple Prince
Purple Rocket
Purple Star
Push Over
PussyCat
Quiet Enough
Quiet Laughter
Quiet Melody
Quiet Reflection
Radiant Star
Rainbow's Bantam Neon Glo
Rainbows Emerald Frost
Rainbow's Fuji Gold
Rainbow's Showboat
Rainmaker (Blansit)
Ramblin' Rascal
Rare Beauty
Raspberry Charm Stripe
Raspberry Frills
Raspberry Glo Stripe
Raspberry Sundae
Ravenscrest
Ravishing Ruffles
Razzle Dazzle
Red and White
Red Carnation
Red Rocket
Red Velvet
Reed's Pink Lemonade
Regina
Renee
Renee Edmondson
Rhapsodie Evelyn
Rhapsodie Maria
Rhapsodie Venus
Rhapsody
Rhinestone Cowboy
Richter's Pearly Shells
Richter's Step Up
Rippled Romance
Risqué
Rob's Bedazzled
Rob's Blue Devil
Rob's Blue Kazoo
Rob's Blue Moon
Rob's Blueberry Patches
Rob's Briar Patch
Rob's Bunny Wabbit
Rob's Candy Apple
Rob's Chimney Sweep
Rob's Clown Around
Rob's Cookie Crumble
Rob's Crazy Quilt
Rob's Double Whammy
Rob's Ember Glow
Rob's Fateful Twist
Rob's Fe Fi
Rob's Firebrand
Rob's Half Moon
Rob's Hocus Crocus
Rob's Ink Storm
Rob's Little Josephine
Rob's Little Schmoozie
Rob's Megan Lynn
Rob's Midnite Magic
Rob's Mischievous
Rob's Miss Priss
Rob's Moon Critter
Rob's Mountain Ash
Rob's Oopsie Daisy
Rob's Orchid Eclipse
Rob's Pal Paul
Rob's Puddle hopper
Rob's Quixotic Lad
Rob's Simply Susan
Rob's Swee'Pea
Rob's Taffy Pull
Rob's Violet Sky
Rob's Whatsit
Rob's Whimsical
Rob's Whoopie
Rob's Willie Winkle
Robyn Lynn
Rococo Orchid Blue
Rococo Rose
Rococo White
Rosalynn Carter
Rosebud Trail
Rose Bandmaster
Rose Embroidery
Rosie Lou
Rowena
Royal Elegance
Royal Heart
Royal Hussy
Royal Ruby
Ruthies Bell
Sabrina
Sabrina Marie
Sailor's Delight
Sailor's Dream
Sailor Girl
Sanae
Sansoucy
Scarlet Macaw
Scooby Do
Sea Grape
Sea Gull
Sea Queen
Sensational
Shannon Renee
Shasta
Sherry Love
Sheryl's Renee
Show Off
Show Stopper
Sierra Skies
Silver Anniversary
Silver Champion
Silver Crest
Silver Flute
Silver Token
Sixpence
Skagit Ambassador
Skagit Royalty
Skagit Toy Asset
Skybird
Sky Magic
Smile
Snow Drops
Snow Flake
Snow Flurrie (Arndt)
Snow Owl
Snow Queen
So Rosy
Southern Comfort
Spangles
Spiced Peach
Sport of Crimson Frost
Sport of Red Erika
Spring Deb
Spring Joy
Star of David
Star of India
Star Trailer
Stateliner
Stormy Night
Striped Honey
Sugar Frost (Swift)
Sugar Plum Fairy
Summer Lightening
Summer Silk
Summer Spice
Suncoast Pink Giant
Sunday Morning
Superman
Swan Lake
Sweet Honesty
Sweet Lady
Sweet Mary
Sweet Paula
Swifty Lace
Taffy Pull
Tangier
Targeteer
Tassy
Teddy bear
Teen Princess
Teen Wonder
Tennessee Apple Blossom
The Bride
Thelma Usinger
The Parson
The Parson's Nadine
The Parson's Ruffles
The Parson's Wife
Tidewater's Sweetheart
Tie Dyed (Dates)
Timber Top
Tinari's Blue Eyes
Tinari's Wild Girl
Tinted Snow
Tiny Pink
Tipt
Titan Blue
Top Notch
Toyland Sport
Tra LaLa
Tribute
Triple Threat
Twinkle
Twist of Lime
Ulery's Azure Beauty
Ultra Violet Twinkle
Unpredictable(Swift)
Valera
Victorian Pink
Vigor Lou
Violets N' Gold
Viola Tucker
Violet Dawson
Viva
Vulcan's Treasure
Waltztime
Wanderlust
Kingwood
Wee Mischief
Wee Stevie
Westdale Purple Mountain
What Now
Wheel of Fortune
Whirlaway
Whirlaway Sport
Whisper Valley
White Bloomin' Fool
White Crusader
White Delaware
White Girl
White Pride Supreme
White Wedgwood
White Whisper
Wine and Roses
Wizard of Oz
Wonder Surprise
Wrangler's Campfire
Wrangler's Double Pleasure
Wrangler's Lady Lee
Wrangler's Lady Vallin
Wrangler's Lavender Lasso
Wrangler's Moon Dance
Wrangler's Moonshine
Wrangler's Pardner
Wrangler's Prairie Fire
Wrangler's Ricochet Romance
Wrangler's Rough Rider
Wrangler's Roundup
Wrangler's Sonuvagun
Wrangler's. Twilight Trail
Wrangler's Yankee Yodler
Yarrow Briar Rose
Zippy (Baker)
Zulu
Zuri

What's Missing From This Picture?

Chances are, few of today's garden centers know as much about growing African Violets as you do. No doubt, this explains why so many knowledgeable Violet growers have a hard time finding the products they need. For anyone who knows what it takes to grow beautiful, full-blooming African Violets, it can be like putting together a puzzle, only to find there's a piece missing. We know the feeling. That's why we started the Selective Gardener, a plant care supplier that specializes in products for African Violets.

Everything You Need to Grow Beautiful, Full-Blooming African Violets

The Selective Gardener makes it easy to get the products you need. As a plant care supplier that specializes in African Violets, the Selective Gardener carries a full line of plant care products with brand names like Optimara.

- Fully-dissolving, urea-free fertilizers
- Self-watering devices such as the Watermaid and the new, spill-proof Optimara WaterShip
- Ultralight, pH-balanced potting media
- Pots, trays and plant covers
- Show accessories and more

From Leaf Cuttings to Finished Violets

In addition to plant care products, the Selective Gardener offers African Violets in several pot sizes, including genuine Miniatures. You can also order leaf cuttings from all of the available Optimara and Rhapsodie varieties.

A Complete African Violet Resource

The Selective Gardener is a complete African Violet resource. Send for the Selective Gardener catalog, and you will find offers for plant care products, Violets and leaf cuttings, even books and posters. Or go online, and you will find even more. At the Selective Gardener's internet site (http://www.selectivegardener.com), you will have access to a number of resources not available anywhere else.

- Growing tips from the world famous Holtkamp Greenhouses
- Complete interactive Violet identification guide
- Links to other useful sites such as Doctor Optimara, a symptom-based, interactive guide for diagnosing pests and pathogens
- Reviews of African Violet products

(**Tip:** If you do not have access to the internet, try your public library. Many libraries, now, provide computers for public use, as well as helpful assistance for anyone wanting to go online.)

The Selective Gardener Catalog

To receive the Selective Gardener catalog, send $1 (which will be credited to your first order) with your name and address to:

The Selective Gardener
6011 Martingale Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

Or visit us online at
http://www.selectivegardener.com.

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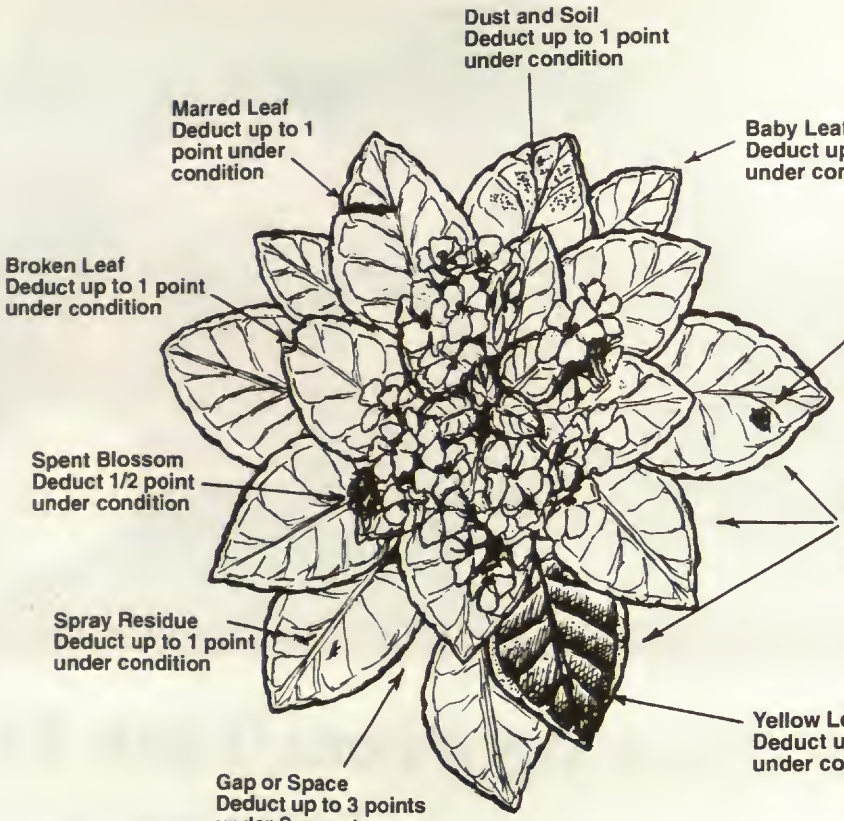
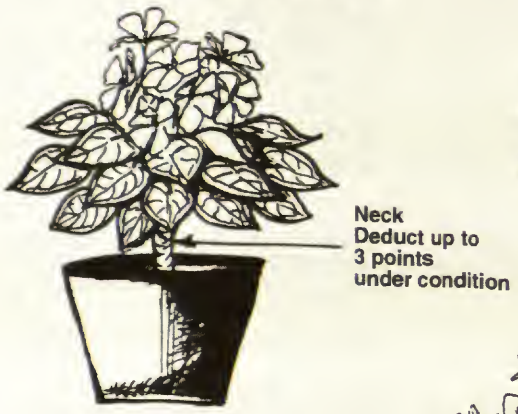
JUDGING THE SHOW PLANT

Compiled by Bill Foster and Mary Ann Corrigan



Symmetry - the shape of the plant
Condition - cultural aspect of the plant at the time it is judged



NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO AVSA BYLAWS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed amendment to AVSA Bylaws Article V Section 5b regarding NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS will be voted on at the AVSA 2005 Annual Convention at Cincinnati, OH.

The proposed amendment, if adopted, would aid the Nominating Committee as it would provide more time for applications to be solicited and the committee to function.

Mary Lou Harden, *Chair, AVSA Bylaws Committee*

Christel H. Collier — Sue Ramser
Ruth Goeke — Bob Green — Lynne Wilson

Current Bylaws

Article V - NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

Section 5b - Election of the chairman shall be at the first meeting of the Executive Committee during the annual convention. Election of the other members shall be by nomination from the floor at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the annual convention. The term of the committee shall begin at the conclusion of the annual business meeting of the convention at which the committee was formed.

Proposed amendment:

Article V - NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

Section 5b - The chairman shall be elected by the Executive Committee prior to the annual convention. Election of the other members shall be by nomination from the floor at the first meeting of the Board of Directors during the annual convention. The term of the committee shall begin upon election.

Rationale

This would lengthen the period of time for the Nominating Committee to function. The chairman would have additional time to gather applications prior to the election of the remainder of the committee. If the term began upon election, the committee could legitimately meet during the convention when face-to-face discussion might expedite their selection of candidates.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed amendment to ARTICLE X of AVSA Bylaws regarding Standing Committees will be voted on at the AVSA 2005 Annual Convention at Cincinnati, OH:

The AVSA Executive Committee has proposed, and the AVSA Bylaws Committee hereby moves:

That the Plant Registration Committee and the Master List of Species & Cultivars Committee be consolidated.

Rationale: This is an idea that was raised many years ago because the functions of the two committees were, and still are, so closely linked. Joe and Janice Bruns, who chair the committees, have recommended that the duties be combined. ARTICLE X, Paragraphs i and l, currently read as follows:

i. MASTER LIST OF SPECIES AND CULTIVARS: shall be responsible for the compilation of the *Master List of Species and Cultivars* and its annual supplements.

l. PLANT REGISTRATION: shall be responsible for all registration of *Saintpaulia* in compliance with the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants*.

If adopted, Paragraphs i and l of ARTICLE X would be consolidated into Paragraph l, as follows:

ARTICLE X

l. PLANT REGISTRATION AND MASTER PLANT LIST: shall be responsible for (a) all registration of *Saintpaulia* in compliance with the *International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants, and (b) compilation of the Master List of Species and Cultivars and* its annual supplements.

MEMBERSHIP AND PROMOTION (currently paragraph j) would become paragraph i and all succeeding paragraphs of ARTICLE X would be re-lettered accordingly.

Mary Lou Harden
Chairman, AVSA Bylaws Committee
902 W. Old Hillsborough • Seffner, FL33584 • mlh@ij.net

Committee Members:

Christel H. Collier — Sue Ramser
Ruth Goeke — Bob Green — Lynne Wilson

Cincinnati Blooms

by Karen Malott

Every spring in Cincinnati, the flowers are in bloom everywhere. This spring from April 17-24, 2005, the violets will be in full bloom at the AVSA Convention at the Drawbridge Inn. Also this year from April 20-24, the Cincinnati Flower Show will be in full bloom at Coney Island in Cincinnati. This is just a short drive from the Drawbridge Inn. The Cincinnati Flower show has international acclaim and is the only North American flower and garden show which is endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society of Great Britain. This is the 16th year for the Cincinnati Flower show. Previously, the show was held in a beautiful park setting, but after several years they outgrew the space. For the last few years, it has been held along the banks of Lake Como at Coney Island, which was previously an amusement park. There will be world class exhibits, top of the line markets, and events for all who visit. Some of the exhibits include: Spotlight Gardens, Container Gardens, Window Boxes, Floral Arrangements, Amateur Horticulture (even African violets too), Artist Studio, Flower Show Marketplace, and the spectacular Grand Marquee Gardens. You can enjoy the flowers from both the AVSA Convention and the Cincinnati Flower Show when you visit us in Cincinnati in 2005.

Showcase

Sunshine Lady

Exhibited by: **Pat Richards**
Hybridized by: **Heard**
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Aca's Sizzle

Exhibited by: **Tony Hulleman**
Hybridized by: **J. Brownlie**
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Showcase

Rob's Lucky Penny

Second Best New Cultivar
2004 AVSA National Show
Exhibited & Hybridized by:
Ralph Robinson
Miniature

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Ness' Crinkle Blue

Exhibited by: **Beverly Williams**
Hybridized by: **D. Ness**
Semiminiature

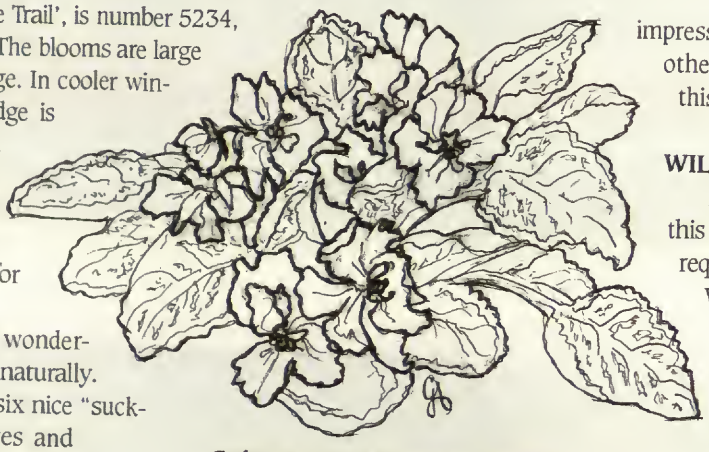
Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

A Family Portrait

Georgene Albrecht
101 Oak Heights Drive
Oakdale, PA 15071
Email: georgena@verizon.net

This beautiful *S.* 'Cherokee Trail', is number 5234, registered in 1983 by L. Ray. The blooms are large double pinks with a white edge. In cooler winter temperatures the white edge is light pink and the variegated white foliage is very white. There is no more beautiful standard trailer than this. It has withstood my erratic care for many years.

The growth habit is just wonderful, forming a lovely clump naturally. When there are about five or six nice "suckers", I remove the large leaves and the new growth seems to come out even. In my opinion this is the very best standard trailer and makes a beautiful hanging basket. It blooms profusely, but heat may cause all green foliage. The cooler the temperature the larger the white areas and more "dappled" the green.



***Saintpaulia* 'Cherokee Trail'**

Propagate this leaf as any African violet. Take a large plantlet when the leaves are just about the size of a nickel and let it develop some large leaves. Then, remove the very center leaving about four large leaves. It will develop at least three side shoots. When they are about four inches across remove the original large leaves. This will leave you with a nice mound of even foliage. I never disbud this plant and she seems to produce enough blooms without coaxing.

TUBERS

The small growing *Sinningia sp.* 'Rio das Pedros' finally has a tuber on the original grown almost eighteen months ago. The old growths have not bloomed much, but I did leave every pod to produce seed. Of course, this takes strength from the plant, so it may not have had the strength to produce the tuber until now. There are little green plants everywhere in the pot. The seed pod must explode. So far, I am not real impressed with this plant because the other tiny sinningias out-bloom this one ten to one.

WILLODENE

Remember the illustration of this African violet along with a request for information about it? Well, Bill Paauwe has come through with some interesting notes. He corrected the spelling to reflect the above name. He said it is listed in Marilyn Goldstein's "Big Book" and described as 'Double light peachy-pink two-tone with darker tips, some green edge, variegated foliage."

Checking back, I think I got my plant from Bill and Kathryn years ago. He makes an interesting observation about the foliage: it is so distinctive that one can pick it out of a crowd of plants. It is another must-have.

The hybridizer was Ms. Lineberg from Birmingham, Alabama, who owned "The Bloom Room." Thanks, Bill, for the information and for always doing a good job with the AVM Annual Index.

CAUTION

Many unusual symptoms in growth are showing up in all parts of the country. Distorted growth and color changes with color break in the blooms. African violets have no center. *Espicia* crowns turn a dry brown and die from the growing crown downward. Sinningias also die from the top down and no mites are there. This may not be broad mite as mentioned in my previous column. Isolate any plant INDIVIDUALLY if you see even the slightest change in growth or bloom habit. Please, email me if you know the cause.

Symmetry? Who, Me? My First Blue Ribbon

by Carole Giangrande

It all began at a Toronto AVS meeting in 2002 when we novices were invited to enter our plants for judging in the annual May show. I'd been growing violets for about a year, and the novice category is for those who've never brought home a blue ribbon. No problem - I'd never entered an African violet competition in my life. Nor had I knowingly deprived a violet of its buds or pampered one by brushing its leaves. "Symmetry?" "Cultural perfection?" And on which planet would that be? Never mind - I love a challenge. I just wondered if I was nuts enough to try this one. I was!

Ahead of me would be weeks spent in constant vigilance, with long tweezers and a magnifying glass in hand as I yanked off buds and pried suckers loose and ushered "wayward leaves" toward a life on the straight-and-narrow. Then there'd be the weekly "neck-check" - that graceless effort to squash the plant down into the pot or else dump it on the counter top, slice off two ugly centimeters of roots and shove it back in the pot again. Does this take time? You bet. Did I have any? Of course not - nobody has time.

It's like asking someone if they have fleas. If they did, would they tell you? I had plants. Surely I wanted them to be as beautiful as possible. I owed it to them to defoliate, desucker, and disbud. Then once the spreading leaves have achieved a gloss and symmetry found nowhere in this solar system, I could bring back all those missing flowers - sure I could. Enough for a good head of bloom? I lay awake nights inventing a product called Petal-Pusher 0-400-0. Sock! Pow! No more leaves, and blooms as big as your face. Plus a blue ribbon for Best Imagination.

How much damage could I do? It was February, and I chose to shorten the life span of three lucky plant varieties: 'Smooch Me', 'Blushing Ivory', which are both standards, and a miniature - 'Rob's Dandy Lion', of which I had two plants. All of them survived! I studied a club member's cribsheet and covered it with yellow highlighter and scribbled remarks ("Saliva on a Q-Tip?" Yech!).

I made mistakes. With grace and skill, I knocked 'Smooch Me' off the shelf and had to remove a row of leaves. Necks sent me into a last-minute panic, along with suckers and brown spots. The buds wouldn't open. I sang to them, and maybe that's why. I thought my plants were spindly and malnourished; and I was certain that 'Blushing Ivory's' brand-new flowers had undergone a genetic mutation. Their colors didn't look right. I imagined judges scribbling things like " This not an African violet." Oh, did I imagine.

I had no idea how to get my plants to the show. A week before the big day, I constructed a rickety contraption of cardboard and duct tape. All the way to the Civic Garden Centre, I sat in the back seat, clutching this heap on my lap and comforting my floriferous babies while urging my very patient husband not to make sharp turns. The car window was open so that everyone in the passing lane on the Parkway could hear me talking to my plants and shrieking at him.

There was worse to come. "Your plants have dust on them," said someone who was trying to be helpful when I registered. Aaaugh! I forgot my plant brush! I had read that stress is a problem at shows, so I calmed down, borrowed a brush, and tidied up my fuzzy little dust-collectors as I counted to ten. I swore I'd never drive myself this nuts again. Then I went home.

The next day, I came back, ready to scoop up my four pathetic entries and high-tail it out of this finicky African violet crazy house, never to return. In the hall, I spotted my plants placed on those crisp, white tablecloths alongside many gorgeous specimens. They didn't look so bad after all. I came closer - and blinked. Instead of judges' notes telling me to switch to dandelions, I found, to my amazement, four blue ribbons! My plants? Sniffle, sniffle! Good thing I'd remembered the Kleenex.

A minute later I was smiling so hard it hurt. I forgot all the fussing and frustration when I realized that those four little violets - and all my efforts - had been more than good enough. I heard lots of congratulations, but what I really heard was, "Welcome to the club."

So this is why you, as a novice, should select your best plant and enter it in the spring show. You have nothing to be shy about. Everyone makes mistakes, and everyone is nervous about having one of their plants judged, but once you try, you'll feel like you belong to the club in a special way. You'll feel stretched, the way you do after a good workout. Once you've won a ribbon at a plant show, your enthusiasm will be boundless! You'll become insufferable to family and friends as you gum up their email with huge downloads of digitized prize winning violets. Whether or not you "win big", you always win in knowledge and experience, and soon you'll be totally hooked on a creative habit with wonderful side effects. In this stressed-out world of ours, few things are as good for the soul and as pleasing to the eye as a well-loved African violet. That beautiful violet could be yours.

From *Chatter*, journal of the AVS of Canada, originally from the *Newsletter* of the Toronto African Violet Society

Showcase

Demers' Pixie Belle

Exhibited by: **Heather Eakins**
Hybridized by: **N. Demers**
Miniature Trailer

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Rob's Bed Bug

Exhibited & Hybridized by:
Ralph Robinson
Semiminiature

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Ness' Satin Rose

Exhibited by: **Allan Reigh, Sr.**
Hybridized by: **D. Ness**
Semiminiature

"Rodeo Days"
Exhibited by: **Paul Kroll**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

"Desert Mirage"
Exhibited by: **Janice Beatty**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

"MIGHT" INFESTATIONS

by Chris Daroche

There seems to be fear instilled in many African violet growers these days. The dreaded "M" word can make our stomachs sink and our hearts break.

Ask any professional grower, and they'll tell you that true mite infestations are not very common. That said, I can't help but feel that many of the suspected Broad or Cyclamen mite infestations that we hear so much about are, in fact, not mites at all, but instead cultural problems or another pest entirely. I've nicknamed these "might infestations", because they might be mites, and they might not be. Many of you are probably thinking, "How can she say that?" Here are some observations I've made:

"I saw a bug with eight legs so I've started spraying with X."

This is disturbing in two ways –

The pest hasn't been positively identified. Eight legs could be six legs and two antennae. Until the pest's identity has been confirmed **by a professional**, such as an extension office, an effective course of treatment cannot be selected.

Plants are being subjected to a treatment chosen irresponsibly. Some treatments can endanger a plant's health, and as a result, could aggravate existing symptoms, or create new ones.

"Once I saw the first one with my lens, I could spot many more without it."

There are thousands of types of mites, many of which are beneficial. **If you can see this bug with the naked eye, you have already ruled out Broad mites and Cyclamen mites.** Read that last sentence again; it's important.

"I only found one bug, so I've caught them early."

Broad and Cyclamen mites are typically found in large numbers. Many of the beneficial and predatory mites are found in low numbers. Again – accurate identification is the key.

"My centers look tight. I have mites."

This is like saying "My arm is itchy. I have chickenpox."

Jumping to conclusions or making assumptions does a plant no good. Before spending hard earned money on expensive chemicals and spending precious time applying those chemicals, take some time to make an intelligent assessment of the situation. Things to ask yourself are:

- Has the amount of light changed?
- Have the light bulbs been changed?
- Has the type of lighting changed?
- Is this plant new to my environment?
- Has the potting mix changed?
- Has the fertilizer changed?
- Could they be getting too much fertilizer?
- Has there been a recent change in temperature?
- Has water gotten into the crown?
- Have the plants recently been treated for another condition?
- Have the plants been allowed to dry out for very long?

As you can see, many factors can cause symptoms similar to those of mite infestations. This is why it's important to not panic and make a snap decision. Only a responsible and informed assessment is going to help the plants. It is the only way to know for sure that you're choosing the best course of treatment for your situation.

Know the symptoms of mite damage.

- Foliage is more hairy than usual.
- Centers are very tight
- Centers show a gray discoloration, and eventual decline
- New growth is twisted, deformed

If plants are presenting only one of these symptoms, the problem is most likely one related to culture. If two or more symptoms are present, get a professional diagnosis from your local extension office. A tool to help locate the one closest to you is available at http://www.csrees.usda.gov/Extension/index.html.

Until the cause of the problem has been determined, isolation of all suspicious plants should take top priority. It's the easiest way to protect other plants that may yet be infected or infested. If possible, place them in another room. It only takes a few minutes but can save a lot of time in the long run! Don't forget to use separate watering and grooming tools for the isolated plants.

Know your options for treatment. Many products claim they kill mites, but they may not be effective on the type of mites that your extension office has identified. Only consider products that have been proven effective on the variety of mite that your extension office has identified. Here is a list of some miticides that are effective on Broad and Cyclamen mites:

- Akari
- Avid
- Pylon
- Sanmite
- Thiodan
- Ultriflora

If the plants have previously been through a course of miticide treatment, don't use the same miticide this time. **Resistance management** is crucial. Using the same chemicals repeatedly can cause mites to develop resistance. Some miticides have a residual value. If a pest were to take up residence a few weeks after the plant was treated, there may be just enough chemical residue left to make the mite sick and cause its body to develop a tolerance. Think of it in terms of a flu shot. The development of new miticides is expensive and takes years to test and obtain government approval. This is why they are expensive to purchase. Responsible usage now helps keep down the cost of our options in the future.

Know which chemicals work well together in rotation.

Some products on the market are very similar in make up, and using them together in a rotation can also encourage resistance. Below are some products that should not be used together:

- Hexygon with Ovation
- Akari with Sanmite
- Ultiflora with Avid

Consider how much time you are willing to commit to eradicating the infestation. Most miticides require three or four treatments scheduled 7 to 10 days apart, depending on environmental temperatures and humidity. Timing of these treatments is crucial if the miticide is to work effectively.

Most miticides only kill adult mites and their larvae. They are not effective on the eggs that are present. This is why retreatment is a key factor. Your goal is to retreat after eggs have hatched, but before the larvae are mature enough to lay their own eggs. Warmer temperatures and high humidity both affect the length of the mite's life cycle. If your climate is warm or very humid, treatments should occur at seven day intervals.

If you cannot commit to applying the correct number of treatments at the correct intervals, you are not only wasting your time and money, but are contributing to the development of chemical resistant pests. Again, please be responsible. We're all depending on you to do the right thing.

Donations Are Still Being Accepted
For The Annual AVSA Convention Auction

To all members, affiliates, hybridizers, and commercial members – it's not too late to make violet related donations to our eighth annual luncheon auction. We really can use your help. Donations of items such as crafts, supplies; or newly introduced plant material of all types or any other violet related item of a unique or desirable nature are still being sought.

If you wish to donate items, please notify me as soon as possible. Kindly provide me with information regarding the item's description, its approximate value, and whether you are sending them on ahead or bringing it convention.

Just a reminder: you must attend the luncheon in order to participate in the auction.

Won't you join us at the luncheon and consider donating an item to help AVSA?

Please send notice to intent to donate to:

Edna Rourke
99 Old Stratford Road
Shelton, CT 06484
1-203-926-9716
Apapillon@aol.com

Donations for the convention may be sent to:

Robert Truax
408 Hearthstone Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

AVSA Affiliates

Bev Promersberger
Affiliate Committee
7992 Otis Way, Pensacola, FL 32506
Email: Promers22@hotmail.com

A new club is organizing in Rome, Georgia:
Rome African Violet Study Group
Contact: Cathy Carter
(706) 378-4249
Cathy32070@aol.com

Looking for a club in your area? Want to start one? We have a starter packet and advice that stays with you until you are established. You can request this packet or any other information by writing or e-mailing me at the addresses above.

Showcase

Rob's Penny Ante

Exhibited by: **Jim Toms**
Hybridized by: **Ralph Robinson**
Miniature

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Gesneria rupincola USBRG 97-117

Exhibited by: **Bill Price**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Photo Credit: **Winston J. Goretsky**

Hondo Honey, Definitely Darryl, Optimara Little Aztec

Best AVSA Collection

Miniatures & Semiminiatures

2004 AVSA National Show

Exhibited by: **Kathy Lahti**

Registration Report

Janice Bruns
1220 Stratford Lane
Hanover Park, IL 60133
Email: janice@qwip.net

A name reservation costs $1.00 and is valid for two years, after which time it may be extended two years for an additional $1.00. Registration of the plant is $5.00 unless completed within the reservation period, in which case the balance is then $4.00. Please make check payable to AVSA.

Olive Ma Robinson – Naples, NY

*Ma's Almost Autumn (9377) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Semidouble dark coral-pink ruffled pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Blue Turtle (9378) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double dark blue star. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain/red back. **Standard**

*Ma's Bridal Bouquet (9379) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double white pansy/green blush, pink mottling. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Double Cross (9380) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Single-semidouble chimera medium-dark pink large star/blue stripe, pink fantasy. **Variegated** dark green and white, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Easter Parade (9381) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double pink frilled pansy/light green edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted. **Standard**

*Ma's Grinning Grape (9382) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Semidouble medium purple large ruffled pansy/dark purple edge. **Variegated** medium-dark green and white, pointed, wavy, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Jamaican Farewell (9383) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double hot pink star/lighter eye. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Lily Pad (9384) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Single-semidouble white star/wide green edge. **Variegated** light-medium green and white, ovate, quilted. **Standard**

*Ma's Megaphone (9385) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double medium blue bell. **Variegated** dark green and white, plain, pointed. **Standard**

*Ma's Moody Monday (9386) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Single-semidouble light-medium blue large star/white eye, edge. **Variegated** medium-dark green and white, plain, pointed. **Standard**

*Ma's Pink Flamingo (9387) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double hot pink ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted. **Standard**

*Ma's Pretty Blue (9388) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Single-semidouble light-medium blue-purple large frilled star/thin white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Pretty Pink (9389) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Single-semidouble light-medium pink large frilled star/thin white edge. **Variegated** medium green and white, pointed, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Red Rover (9390) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Semidouble-double dark red ruffled pansy. **Variegated** medium-dark green and white, ovate, quilted, serrated. **Standard**

*Ma's Show Girl (9391) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double pink pansy/rose sparkle overlay, variable thin white-green edge. **Variegated** medium green, white and cream, quilted/red back. **Standard**

*Ma's Wedding Day (9392) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double light pink large ruffled star. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted. **Standard**

*Ma's White Elephant (9393) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Semidouble white large star. **Variegated** medium green and white, quilted, serrated. **Large**

*Ma's Winter Moon (9394) 10/15/04 (O. Robinson) Double medium blue star/wide white edge, variable gray-green tips. **Variegated** light-medium green and white, heart-shaped. **Standard**

*****

Ralph Robinson – Naples, NY

*Rob's Lucky Ducky (9395) 10/15/04 (R. Robinson) Semidouble dark rose-pink pansy. **Variegated** dark green, white and pink, pointed, serrated; sucker propagation. **Semiminiature**

*Rob's Ooey Gooey (9396) 10/15/04 (R. Robinson) Semidouble pink pansy/darker rose-pink fantasy. **Crown**

variegated dark green, beige and pink, pointed, serrated. **Semiminiature**

*Rob's Pogo Stick (9397) 10/15/04 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white pansy/wide fuchsia-red edge. **Crown variegated** medium green, white and yellow. **Semiminiature**

*Rob's Sex Kitten (9398) 10/15/04 (R. Robinson) Semidouble white large star/pink frilled edge. **Crown variegated** light-medium green, white and yellow, quilted, serrated. **Semiminiature**

*****

Jack Cochran – Wagoner, OK

*Okie Cherry Tart (9399) 10/19/04 (J. Cochran) Semidouble wine pansy/dark magenta edge. Medium green, plain/red back. **Standard**

*Okie Fairy Queen (9400) 10/19/04 (J. Cochran) Single-semidouble white star/wide dark blue edge. **Crown variegated** medium green and yellow, plain. **Standard**

*Okie Lucinda (9401) 10/19/04 (J. Cochran) Semidouble red two-tone/bright pink overlay. **Variegated** dark green and white, ruffled/red back. **Standard**

NAME RESERVATIONS

Shirlene Jones – Wolf Lake, IL

* Wizard's Numbing Cold * Wizard's Traci Alane * Wizard's Prankster * Wizard's Sunstrike * Wizard's Energy Storm * Wizard's Insatiable Love * Wizard's Coldhearted Lady * Wizard's Shadowed Lady * Wizard's White Wolf * Wizard's Excalibur * Wizard's Gwendoloena * Wizard's Danania * Wizard's Siege Perilous * Wizard's Froststrike *

More Tips from the Bay Staters

Sharon Corton waters her small plants with an ear bulb syringe that can be purchased at a pharmacy. This allows a small amount of water on to the soil surface and doesn't create a "hole."

Russell Gallini sets up a few solo cups with soil before he leaves for a meeting. Then, when he returns home with the leaves he, hopefully, has received, he's ready to pot them up.

Anne Marie Flynn is very careful to mark the date when she last potted up a plant. She uses a self-adhesive label and a permanent fine point marker. This will remind her to change the soil and/or the wick every six months, even if the plant is not moving into a larger pot. As an extra bonus, she also realizes how a particular variety is growing and how often it needs to be repotted, etc.

Marie Montague uses the same plastic label for the life of the plant. On one side, she writes the name of the variety with a permanent marker. On the reverse side, she applies masking tape to note the date she repotted it. If you decide to give the plant to a friend, or to sell it, the masking tape is easily removed.

Peg Eaton reminds us that African violet species plants have lower light requirements than many of our modern hybrids. These are good plants to place at the very ends of the light shelves. Some of these species violets can also tolerate much cooler temperatures than other violets (in fact, certain species require cool temperatures to bloom!) so these plants also make good candidates for windowsill growing.

Terri Seymore cautions, "Beware of sunburn!" Use indirect light, not direct.

Althea Major changes her wicks every few months. She uses 3 ply acrylic yarn and uses a tweezer to insert the wick, about 1/2 to 1 inch up into the pot, through the hole in the bottom of the pot.

Suzanne Ress pots up leaves by placing the leaf in a baggy filled with soil and hanging it on her plant stand. This method provides her with extra room for her plants.

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS, MA

Sinningia Tip

by Cheryl Salatino

Remember, the *Sinningia* does go dormant.

When the plant completes its bloom cycle and begins to look poorly, reduce your watering frequency. The foliage will start to die down. Stop fertilizing at this time. Remove browned foliage and repot the tuber in fresh soil. Water just enough to keep the soil slightly damp. After about four months of dormancy, new growth will appear. Resume watering and weekly fertilizing (1/4 tsp. to 1 gallon water). Be careful not to over-fertilize. Give the plant lots of bright, indirect light during its growing season. With the right amount of light, a *Sinningia* should grow compact and not too tall or "leggy."

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS, MA

AUSSIE GOLD™ ORCHID MIX

SSSSH!

Don't tell your orchid lover friends, but Aussie Gold™ works just as well for African Violets as it does for orchids (and plumeria, bonsai, tomatoes, miniature roses and a myriad of house plants).

Try it! It works!

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Saintpaulia pendula 3090

Dr. Jeff Smith
Indiana Academy
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
Email: Jsmith4@bsu.edu

Saintpaulia pendula 3090 is a clone from the Uppsala Botanical Gardens in Uppsala, Sweden. The Gardens hold a number of *Saintpaulia* species clones from collections made in the 1980's during forest conservation work sponsored by the Swedish government. Because these plants were collected by professional botanists, more information is available on their locations than is available for plants from the Mather collection. The records for *S. pendula* 3090 show that it was collected in 1986 on steep cliffs in wet intermediate forests at an elevation of 960 meters (approximately 3150 feet). The collection was made in the East Usambara Mountains in the Muheza District near Kimbo, Tanzania. The collectors were S.T. Iverson, C.K. Ruffo, and M. Steiner. The specimen record is number 86201 in the Uppsala herbarium. Leaf cuttings were sent to Iowa State University in 1992. I obtained my cutting from ISU in 1996.

S.T. Iverson collected a number of plants in the Uppsala collection. When some of the labels of these plants reached me, they were mistakenly read as St. (Saint) Iverson. It was several years before I discovered this mistake. If you have any species plants in your collection that have a St. Iverson in their name or label, please recognize and correct this mistake.

S. pendula 3090 is a semi-miniature trailer with a weak growth habit. The leaves are oppositely placed on reddish-green stems at approximately 1-2 cm (1/2 inch) intervals. The leaves are round to slightly heart shaped, medium green, and are approximately 3 to 3.5 cm (1 1/2 inches) in diameter. The leaf blades are shallowly but regularly toothed from base to tip. The underside of the leaves is green with red veins. The petioles are reddish and relatively short, being only 1-2 cm (1/2 inch) in length. The leaves have some visible hairs in the long appressed, short appressed (LASA) pattern, but are not exceptionally hairy.

The flowers of *S. pendula* 3090 are about 1-2 cm in diameter and are found one per peduncle. The one flower per peduncle trait is often used as the key diagnostic for identifying *S. pendula* species clones. Since the leaves are opposite, the flowers are usually produced in pairs along the stem. The flowers are light to medium blue in color. The peduncles are thin and wiry and weakly support the flowers. Because of this, the flowers may not always extend above the foliage and may be hidden beneath the leaves. This species clone is not floriferous and may only have half dozen or fewer open flowers at any time.

S. pendula 3090 has not been an easy species to grow in my collection. The plant is slow growing and seems to be delicate in nature. I treat it as a warm growing species. Perhaps with the proper light and humidity, it would make a fuller, more robust plant. This plant appears to be very shallow rooted and responds negatively to minor root disturbance or damage. Perhaps better success can be achieved by growing this species in shallow pans or moss covered rock.

I have not used *S. pendula* 3090 in hybridizing. It does have a good trailing habit that might be useful in developing miniature trailer hybrids. However, care would need to be taken in getting the flowers to show above the foliage in any hybrids. The very low flower count of this species would also be a concern in hybridizing. Perhaps crossing this species with miniatures with high flower counts would produce some nice miniature trailers.

In conclusion, *S. pendula* 3090 is not a species clone that will appeal to most growers. It is modest in size and shy in producing flowers. However, if you are after a plant that will challenge your growing skills, this species may be of interest. It is one of smallest trailing species clones and will not require a great deal of space, only careful attention to its care and culture.

2005
AVSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINEES

President **- Linda Owens**

Linda Owens of Columbus, OH, has been a member of AVSA since 1980. She is a Life Member, a Senior Judge, and a Teacher. She is a member of the Columbus African Violet Society where she has held numerous offices and committee positions. She is also a member of the Ohio State African Violet Society and the Ohio State Judges' Council.

Her first AVSA convention was in Orlando in 1987, and she has attended each convention since then, serving as Convention Chairman for the 1992 Convention in Columbus. She served as a Director from 1990 through 1992, serving on the Finance Committee. She served as Finance Committee Chairman from 1997 to 1999. She served as Asst. Convention Director from 1995 to 1999 and became Convention Director in 2000.

She has three step-children and five grandsons. She and her husband Jim have been married for thirty years.

1st Vice President **- Joyce Stork**

Joyce Stork is from Fremont, Nebraska, and has been an AVSA commercial member for thirty years and a judge for 24 years. She is a member of the Lincoln AVS where she is currently president. She is a member of the Omaha AVS and the Missouri Valley AV Council. She has held several offices in each.

She served as AVSA Show Chair for the 1989 Kansas City AVSA Convention and as Convention Chair for the 2000 Omaha convention. She was elected to the Board of Directors in 1990 and has since served on the Awards, Bylaws, Convention, Future Directions, and Membership committees. She is currently the Assistant Convention Director. In 1989 she and her husband Kent were honored with the Bronze Medal Award. Together they wrote the column "For Beginners" from 1991 until 2003.

She graduated from the University of Nebraska with a bachelor's degree in secondary education. She taught for seven years before she began helping Kent at their flower shop and violet business, Kent's Flowers. They have been married 34 years and have two adult sons. She is also active in her church, teaching Bible classes, working with youth, and serving as parliamentarian.

Second Vice President **- Ronald Davidson**

I was born in Kansas and raised in Oklahoma. I graduated from Oklahoma State University with an Engineer Degree. I retired from the U. S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1990. My wife, Janice, and I just celebrated our fortieth wedding anniversary. We have two daughters and two grandchildren. After spending a number of years traveling around the U.S.A. and the world with the Army, we settled down in Red Oak, Texas (just south of the Dallas area).

I'm a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas with a consulting firm. I specialize in structural foundation and drainage. I assisted the AVSA with a major foundation re-leveling problem with the AVSA building in Beaumont in 1999.

I'm a member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, North Texas African Violet Judges Council, and First African Violet Society of Dallas. I have served as past president, treasurer, and show chairman, as well as classification and entries chairman for the local clubs. I have served as co-editor for Lone Star African Violet Council Newsletter and as show chairman and entries/classification chairman for a number of state shows.

I served as your 3rd Vice-president the past two years, past Director for AVSA, and am currently on the Shows and Judges Committee and Commercial Sales and Exhibits Committee. I'm the Shows and Judges Committee coordinator for classification/entries and the commercial section of judging during the shows. I'm also a Life member of AVSA and a senior judge.

I have exhibited African violets, Gesneriads, and designs in the local, state, and national conventions and shows, and was fortunate to win the Tri-color award for the Best-In-Show Design. I grow in excess of one hundred and fifty African violets and Gesneriads. I also grow two to three new gesneriads every year to see how they grow and bloom. I enjoy the time at conventions to see old friends and meet new ones.

For 3rd Vice President **– Linda Golubski**

Linda Golubski of Blue Springs, Missouri, has been a member of AVSA since 1985. She is a life member, senior judge, and has served the Society as Awards Committee chairman, Nominating Committee chairman, and as a member of Membership and Promotions Committee. She was also

information chairman for the 1989 AVSA Convention in Kansas City.

Linda is a member of the Unpredictable African Violet Society of Blue Springs, has served the Society as it's president for three terms, and has served in all other offices. She has also served several times as show chairman. She is a member of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council and has served as it's president, treasurer, and as show chairman. Linda is currently president of the Heart of America Gesneriad Society and has served the Society as show chairman, vice president, and secretary. Linda has also been the director of the African Violet Show for the Missouri State Fair since 1990.

She is a graduate of Hartford Airline Personnel School, Kansas City Business College, and has attended Philadelphia Community College, University of Tennessee Knoxville, and the University of Missouri Kansas City. She is employed by Ozark National Life Insurance Company as their controller.

Linda and her husband, Jim, have 4 children and 9 1/2 (due February) grandchildren. They enjoy spoiling the grandchildren and collecting old dishes and figurines. Linda also collects vintage costume jewelry.

As a hobby that she has had for 35 years, Linda grows about 700 African violets, other gesneriads, orchids, and cactus. She frequently lectures on the other gesneriads and African violet species.

Nancy Hayes

Nancy has been an AVSA member for 41 years, having attended over 35 conventions. She has served as a judge for 35 years and is currently a Master Judge and Judging School Teacher. She has served as a consultant to judging for 20 plus AVSA Convention Shows.

She has served on the Board of Directors as treasurer, secretary, and chairman of Policies and Procedures, Nominating and Membership and Promotion. She served on the Library Committee for 14 years, has been a member of the Convention Committee for over 20 years, as well as serving on numerous other committees. Her work as Question Box columnist for nearly ten years and presenting the Social Hour Slides for many years at the annual conventions have given her a great sense of satisfaction and pleasure.

Over the years AVSA has conferred upon her the Honorary One Year Membership Award, the Continuing Service Award, an Honorary Life Membership Award, and the Distinguished Service Award.

Nancy has been married to John for 43 years. They have four children and five grandchildren. She continues her love of growing African violets and other gesneriads, creating designs, and always with an eye to her quilting and counted thread embroidery. She continues to serve locally in AVSA affiliates and maintains membership and participation in many regional and state societies.

For Treasurer **– Sue Ramser**

Sue Ramser of Wichita Falls, Texas, has been a member of the First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls for thirty-three years. She has served as show chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, and President nine times.

As member of the Lone Star African Violet Council, Sue has served as newsletter editor twice, Parliamentarian, Secretary, Vice President, and President. She is also active in the North Texas African Violet Judges Council, having served as Corresponding Secretary, Secretary, Vice President, and President.

Sue has served as a member of the AVSA classification committee, aide to the president for the 1988 AVSA Convention in Dallas, vice chairman of the AVSA Affiliate Committee, elected director, AVSA Sales and Promotion Table Volunteer coordinator, Secretary of the Shows and Judges Committee, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Policies and Procedures Committee, and AVSA Secretary. Sue is an AVSA Life Member, Master Judge, and Teacher. In 1993 she compiled "Teaching Tools" and is currently working on its revision.

Sue is a graduate of the University of North Texas, Denton, with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Her husband Charles is a Professor of Management at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. They have four children. Sue's other interests include sewing and knitting.

For Director **– Linda Abplanalp**

I knew I was in trouble when, after moving to North Carolina, I had to use a post-hole digger to plant marigolds. They promptly drowned in the solid red clay.

Realizing that outside gardening was going to be difficult, I thought growing a few violets inside might satisfy he gardening urge and be easier to manage. After all, my mother grew gorgeous ones.

This led to the present five stands located throughout the house. So, it was the frying pan into the fire trick, and now outside gardening seems like it would have been simpler.

I am a retired Medical Technologist, have two grown children, and one long-suffering husband, Bill. Three cats (who are Strept. Gourmets) and one little white dog complete the picture.

Meeting and making both near and far away friends the last twelve years through violetry has been a true reward. I am the immediate past-president of The Mid-Atlantic AVS and The Piedmont-Triad AVS, am a senior AVSA judge, and a member of the Triangle AVS. I also enjoy quilting, adult Sunday School teaching, and just in case we don't have quite enough, you guessed it, hybridizing more violets.

For Director **– Randy G. Deutsch**

I was born and raised in Ellsworth, Minnesota. After high school I attended Alexandria Area Technical College in Alexandria, MN. and received my degree in Accounting. Then I moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota and have lived here for the last 31 years. I have been working for the past 12 years for JDS Industries Inc. and am currently the Warehouse Operations Manager, covering all 9 distribution centers the company has across America. They are a wholesale supplier of parts and components servicing the retail trophy industry.

I have been growing African violets ever since that first one that my wife brought home from her work at the hospital back in the 80's. I am currently the co-president of the South Dakota African Violet Club, the second vice-president of the Missouri Valley African Violet Council, and have twice been the show chairman for their fall show. My first AVSA convention was in 1999 at Houston, and I have attended every one since. I am a Life Member and an Advance Judge.

I have exhibited African violets, gesneriads, and designs in local, council, and national conventions and show, and am also a member of the American Begonia Society.

I am married to Carla and we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary this summer along with our son, Jon-Eric. My other 'full time' hobby is modeling and riding as many trains as I can across America.

For Director **– Blanca Fuster**

I was born, raised, and lived most of my life in Puerto Rico. I hold a B.A. in Elementary Education and a Masters Degree in School Administration. For twenty-eight years I had different roles as an educator. I was a classroom teacher, a school principal, and a central staff supervisor for the Department of Education of Puerto Rico.

I relocated to Texas fifteen years ago and have been a member of AVS for fourteen years. I am a Life Member of AVSA and a Senior Judge. I also belong to the Lone Star African Violet council and the North Texas African Violet Judges Council where I have served as President, Vice President, and Corresponding Secretary.

One of the things I have enjoyed most through my membership is having chaired and staged many shows. I have attended ten AVSA National Conventions, and each one has been a welcome and pleasant experience. As a former educator, I love to share knowledge with others and have done so by having done numerous presentations and workshops in growing and designing flower arrangements. In addition to growing African violets, my favorite pastimes are reading, sewing, home interior decoration, and traveling.

For Director: **Andrea Worrell**

I was born in Chicago and have settled in Downers Grove, IL. I've been married to my husband Dwayne for almost thirteen years. I earned my undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and then received my graduate degree from Loyola Law School. I now run my own law practice, concentrating mainly on Real Estate.

I discovered African violets in 1994 when my husband took me to a state show. It wasn't long after that show that I got my first plant stand. I quickly became active in the state, local, and national African violet clubs including AVSA, Hoosier AVS, Illinois AVS, and, most recently, the Fox Valley AVS, which I helped to start about five years ago. It is now the largest local African violet club in Illinois. I have served in Fox Valley AVS as President and Vice President, in the Illinois African Violet Society as Recording Secretary, and currently as President. I have also been show chairman at the local and state level.

In my "spare" time, I give presentations on growing violets to local garden clubs, violet clubs, and state shows. I am always on the lookout for new violet recruits! I also love traveling and cooking, but am happiest at home with my husband, puppies, kitties, birds, fish, and flowers. My travels of late have been primarily to AVSA conventions where I have been active in the Entries process of the show over the past few years. I look forward to continuing in that capacity as well as doing the best I can as a new Director of AVSA. I can't emphasize enough, though, the value of the friendships and relationships that I have developed from attending the National conventions. I treasure them even above the fun of growing, and I can't wait to develop more friendships as I have the opportunity to serve with the members of AVSA.

Another Way to Produce a Chimera

by Nancy Robitaille

'Chimo', a chimera hybridized by Greta Durand, has very large leaves on the flower stalks. These can be cut to 3/4 inch and planted in soilless mix. It will produce a plantlet that will eventually become true to the mother plant.

Planting by Moon Signs

Moon in Aries

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds, pests, etc., and for cultivating.

Moon in Taurus

Productive and moist, earthy and feminine. Used for planting many crops, particularly potatoes and root crops, and when hardiness is important. Also used for lettuce, cabbage, and similar leafy vegetables.

Moon in Gemini

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for destroying noxious growths, weeds and pests, and for cultivation.

Moon in Cancer

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. This is the most productive sign, used extensively for planting and irrigation.

Moon in Leo

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. This is the most barren sign, used only for killing weeds and for cultivation.

Moon in Virgo

Barren and moist, earthy and feminine. Good for cultivation and destroying weeds and pests.

Moon in Libra

Semi-fruitful and moist, airy and masculine. Used for planting many crops and producing good pulp growth and roots. A very good sign for flowers and vines. Also used for seeding hay, corn fodder, etc.

Moon in Scorpio

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Nearly as productive as Cancer; used for the same purposes. Especially good for vine growth and sturdiness.

Moon in Sagittarius

Barren and dry, fiery and masculine. Used for planting onions, seeding hay, and for cultivation.

Moon in Capricorn

Productive and dry, earthy and feminine. Used for planting potatoes, tubers, etc.

Moon in Aquarius

Barren and dry, airy and masculine. Used for cultivation and destroying noxious growths, weeds, and pests.

Moon in Pisces

Very fruitful and moist, watery and feminine. Used along with Cancer and Scorpio, especially good for root growth.

March Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Tue.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
2 Wed. 1:29 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
3 Thu.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	4th	12:36 pm
4 Fri. 5:12 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
5 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
6 Sun. 6:49 pm	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
7 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
8 Tue. 7:32 pm	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
9 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
10 Thu. 9:03 pm	Aries	Fire	Barren	New	4:10 am
11 Fri.	aries	fire	Barren	1st	
12 Sat.	Aries	Fire	Barren	1st	
13 Sun. 1:05 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
14 Mon.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
15 Tue. 8:44 am	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
16 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
17 Thu. 7:44 pm	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	2:19 pm
18 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
19 Sat.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
20 Sun. 8:17 am	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
21 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
22 Tue. 8:10 pm	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
23 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
24 Thu.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
25 Fri. 6:00 am	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	Full	3:58 pm
26 Sat.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
27 Sun. 1:29 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
28 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
29 Tue. 6:56 pm	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
30 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
31 Thu. 10:48 pm	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd	

April Moon Table

Date	Sign	Element	Nature	Phase	
1 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	7:50 pm
2 Sat.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	4th	
3 Sun. 1:31 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
4 Mon.	Aquarius	Air	Barren	4th	
5 Tue. 4:45 am	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
6 Wed.	Pisces	Water	Fruitful	4th	
7 Thu. 7:28 am	Aries	Fire	Barren	4th	
8 Fri.	Aries	Fire	Barren	New	4:32 pm
9 Sat. 11:50 am	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
10 Sun.	Taurus	Earth	Semi-fruitful	1st	
11 Mon. 6:35 pm	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
12 Tue.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
13 Wed.	Gemini	Air	Barren	1st	
14 Thu. 5:03 am	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st	
15 Fri.	Cancer	Water	Fruitful	1st	
16 Sat. 5:17 pm	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	10:37 am
17 Sun.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
18 Mon.	Leo	Fire	Barren	2nd	
19 Tue. 5:27 am	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
20 Wed.	Virgo	Earth	Barren	2nd	
21 Thu. 3:27 pm	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
22 Fri.	Libra	Air	Semi-fruitful	2nd	
23 Sat. 10:25 pm	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	2nd	
24 Sun.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	Full	6:06 am
25 Mon.	Scorpio	Water	Fruitful	3rd	
26 Tue. 2:46 am	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
27 Wed.	Sagittarius	Fire	Barren	3rd	
28 Thu. 5:33 am	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
29 Fri.	Capricorn	Earth	Semi-fruitful	3rd	
30 Sat. 7:54 am	Aquarius	Air	Barren	3rd	

Reprinted with permission from Llewellyn's 2005 Moon Sign Book, published by Llewellyn Publications, ISBN 0-7387-0124-6

Diseases of African Violets

by Joyce Stork

While there are many possible diseases of African violets, there are only a few which may commonly plague home growers. Managing those will greatly enhance the pleasure of growing.

Most common diseases

Botrytis Blight

Fungus disease that is very common in greenhouse crops.

B. cinerea is species name.

May cause gray fuzzy sporulation (eg. chrysanthemum) on plant or flower tissue.

In violets, it often attacks flowers which is called Botrytis Blossom Blight.

Flowers will have grey or color-less appearance, and center crown growth will be stunted.

May attack cuts and lesions in plant tissue or can colonize on healthy tissue.

Management

Avoid high humidity (sporulation occurs only in high humidity), maintaining a level of 60% or below.

Avoid short periods of high humidity (such as when temperatures cool dramatically).

Once present, use fungicides on healthy plants and destroy affected plants.

Erwinia

More commonly called bacterial soft rot. This is a bacteria disease.

Many species, but violets are susceptible to E. carotovora and E. chrysanthemi.

Early symptoms include darkening of veins in leaf.

Mid-disease symptoms include darkened water-soaked patches on leaves and wilting, rotting stems.

Late symptoms include the collapse of entire plant.

Management

Avoid high humidity.

Maintain temperatures below 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Keep tools clean (disease spreads very quickly when tissue is wounded such as in leaf propagation).

Nitrogen fertilizer may improve resistance.

Use copper based bactericide such as Phyton 27 on healthy plants and destroy affected plants.

Do not reuse soil from contaminated plants

Powdery Mildew

Fungus disease is parasitic and needs a living plant host to complete its life cycle (it does not grow on dirt).

There are several genera including Erysiphe, Leveillula, Microsphaera, Sphaerotheca, Uncinula, and Oidium (the one most commonly associated with violets).

It forms a network of hyphae (the white powder) over the plant surface which then penetrates epidermal (top) cells. Early treatment can stop the penetration of the mildew.

Symptoms include powdery white spots on foliage, flowers, stems, calyx, or pedicel which, in most severe form, cause tissue to become dry and die.

Some violet hybrids will be resistant (several Melodie and Ballet hybrids have been identified this way which may be simply because these were tested).

Management

Maintain humidity below 60%.

Air must be kept moving to discourage growth.

Scout for problems during seasons when humidity or lack of air movement is favorable for growth.

Use proper fungicide at first appearance.

Phytophthora, Pythium, and Rhizoctonia root and crown rots

All three fungal diseases are commonly associated with rot in African violets.

Severity of the diseases is enhanced by the use of non-organic or soilless potting mixes (which lack microorganisms that attack these spores).

All three may be controlled by fungicides (specific to the fungal disease in question) and should be used if multiple cases are diagnosed in a short period of time.

Rhizoctonia

Most commonly associated with propagation and sometimes described as damping off.

May also cause ends of leaf stems and flower stems to blacken and separate from the plant.

Violet growing environment is often perfect conditions for the growth of this fungus.

Sanitation is best protection since it usually enters the plant area via contaminated tools, containers, potting medium, or infected plants.

Never reuse potting medium.

Sanitize tools and containers before reusing.

Dispose and destroy affected plants.

Pythium (several species)

Probably the most common plant pathogen associated with rot worldwide

Typically results in wilting of above-ground portion of plant while roots have lesions and/or are decayed.

Cortex (outside skin) of the roots may be easily stripped away from the center vascular part of the roots.

Advances up the plant system, beginning in the roots, into the main stalk, and finally onto the stems (at the worst stage).

Fungus gnat larvae and shore flies may contribute to disease spread.

Sporangia produces a zoospore that is motile (can move) with flagella that propel the spore in water.

It isn't vigorous in soil but survives there in a dormant state until conditions of significant soil saturation occur (allowing the spore to germinate).

Spore germination can occur within 90 minutes.

Very efficient at attacking new root growth

Sanitation of growing medium is important but method of watering is critical to preventing problems.

Sanitize used pots and, when rot is present, potting mixes should be heated to 180 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes to eliminate the pathogen.

Properly fertilized plants are more resistant to disease.

Phytophthora parasitica (plus several other species and variants)

Also worldwide and may be the most common root rot disease in African violets.

Symptoms are very similar to *Pythium* but also may have a black lesion at the crown when disease is fully developed.

Often travels inside the main stalk causing a discolored or corky center in pith of the stalk beginning just above the root.

Similar to pythium zoospores that are motile (can move) with flagella in water.

Grows especially fast at temperatures above 80 degrees and generally depends on water or contaminated potting mix to spread.

Leaves in contact with growing medium may develop water-soaked lesions from same disease.

Sanitation procedures for *Pythium* apply here too.

Management

Pythium and Phytophthora spp can be eliminated by cutting away all diseased tissue and repotting if done promptly before disease reaches crown of violet.

Tools must be kept clean using bleach or disinfectant solutions.

If disease is present, isolation using plastic bags, hoods, or containers is recommended to prevent disease spread.

Watering is always critical factor in the rot diseases. When water saturation is controlled, the disease will remain dormant!

Good source for more information

Compendium of Flowering Potted Plant Diseases, Margery L. Daughtrey, Robert L. Wick, Joseph L. Peterson, APS Press, 1995

(Available from Amazon.com in both used and new form)

Rooting African Violet Blooms

by Barbara Conrad*

We are all so used to starting new African-violet plants by setting down leaves. Have you ever considered starting a plant by rooting blossoms? It's not difficult! However, you can only root from a blossom having two tiny 'wing' leaves coming out the sides of the blossom stem. These wings may only grow to be one half inch or less.

Start by cutting the blossom off above the wing leaves. Trim the stem below the wing leaves to about one and one half inches. Select the smallest container possible, such as a plastic sauce container (solo cup) from a takeout restaurant. Put a small amount of perlite in the bottom of the container and fill, using a damp mixture of perlite and vermiculite with a tiny bit of charcoal (a soilless mixture for starting plants). Put a hole into the mixture with a pencil and lower the entire stem so that the wing leaves are barely above the potting mixture. Gently firm the mixture around the stem. Place the plant and the pot into a plastic sandwich bag held shut with a twist tie. Apply warm water with an eyedropper as needed to keep the mixture damp. Roots and then leaves will develop between one and two months time.

Why not try your hand at rooting a blossom stem? It is the only way, other than sucker propagation, that you will be able to propagate a pinwheel (chimera) variety and have it come true with the striped, pinwheel pattern in the flower.

From African Violet & Gesneriad News.
Originally printed in the
Hobby Greenhouse Magazine.

OF WHAT BENEFIT ARE THE BENEFICIALS?

by Nancy Robitaille

It's not that chemicals are becoming more poisonous. It's that we are finding through research that many of the chemicals we have been using for years and are presently using are not good for our health and for those around us.

So what can be done to get rid of the insects that plague our large collections of African violets and other gesneriads? These pests include foliar mealy bug, soil mealy bug, broad mite, cyclamen mite, spider mite, thrips, aphids, fungus gnats, occasionally scale, springtails, whiteflies, or perhaps Root Knot nematodes. Are there bugs that will actually make a meal of our enemies?

Beneficial insects are the insects we can see each day in our gardens, living their lives the way they are supposed to, finding food, reproducing, then making room for the offspring.

Which of the known beneficial insects can help us in our plight? The common ones sold in certain places are as follows:

LADY BUGS: (Ladybird beetle)
(Hippodamia convergens)

Lady bugs will destroy aphids, thrips, whiteflies, mites, or so the ads read. Does this include our devastating cyclamen mite and broad mite? I am presently in correspondence with three companies asking that very question.

One company in Canada, Natural Insect Control (905-382-2904), seems to know what's what in the World of Bugs. The lady there suggests using Beneficial Nematodes that will surely destroy soil mealy bugs. (See below). She says it may be difficult to find beneficial bugs for cyclamen and broad mite, but she is doing research.

LACE WINGS: (Chrysoperla rufilabris)

Lace Wings eat all bad insects in the garden. This includes aphids, whiteflies, mealy bugs (foliar – not soil mealy bug), immature scale, and as the publicity says, mites. (But this may not mean cyclamen and broad mite.)

The insects themselves do not do the job of destroying our foe. They feed on nectar, pollen, and honeydew often produced by aphids. It's the predacious offspring that do the job for us.

The adult Lace Wing lays her eggs on foliage. Eggs hatch in a few days, and the tiny predatory larvae emerges ready to do as much damage to the insect population as they can. Larvae attack soft bodied insects. These grow to three-eights inch long.

Lace Wing adults are pale green, 12-20 mm long, with long antennae and have bright golden eyes. The wings are large, transparent, pale green, and the body is delicate. Adults are active fliers in the evening and night outdoors. We should expect the same habits in greenhouses and in our homes.

Eggs are oval-shaped and turn gray in a few days. The active larvae are gray or brown, alligator-like with well-developed legs and large pincers. Larvae are from one mm to 8 mm.

Lace Wings can take care of red spider mites. They are also considered an important predator of long-tailed mealy bug in green houses and interior plantscapes.

Lace Wing larvae attack their prey by seizing them with their large sucking jaws, and they inject a paralyzing venom. With their hollow jaws, they draw out the body fluids of the pest. Not a pretty picture! But remember what the insects have done to your collection...

Reports state that each Lace Wing larva will devour two hundred or more pests or pests' eggs a week during their two-to-three week development period. Afterwards, they pupate, spinning a cocoon with silken thread around themselves. Five days later, the adult emerges to mate and repeat the cycle of life. Depending on climatical conditions, the adult will live four to six weeks.

Each adult female can lay two hundred eggs. In the outdoor scenario, adults will disperse when there is no longer nectar, pollen, and honeydew available.

SPIDEX AND SPICAL MITES

Spidex and Spical mites are predators for spider mite. Spidex mite's Latin name is (P. persimilis). Spical mites (N.californicus) eat more slowly, but can survive longer under starvation conditions.

Spider mite destroyers eat all stages of Spider mite.

It takes four to six weeks to really get these guys going. Life cycle takes 18 days at 70 F.

THRIPEX AND THRIPEX PLUS:

These are brand names introduced by one company instead of using the more difficult Latin names.

Thripex Plus (amblyseius cucumeris) controls thrips, spider mite, Broad Mite, and several other mites. Adults feed on honeydew and pollen. It is possible to obtain one thousand predatory mites in all stages of the life cycle and grain mites mixed with bran in a container. These are applied at the rate of fifty per plant every two weeks. Cost is approximately twenty dollars US depending on size of container of insects.

Thrips predator mites are most effective under conditions 70-85% humidity against all species of thrips. They will also eat some spider mites and other small pests. You must keep up the humidity for good results.

THRIPTOR I

Thrips that are really out of control could be wrangled by these predators. Thriptor I (orisus insidiosus) is the appropriate

means for this job. A container may hold five hundred adults and nymphs mixed with vermiculite. These are effective against thrips larvae and adults.

EN-STRIP

En-strip is a white fly parasite. We are not bothered often by white fly in African violet collections, but it is good to know there is a means of controlling these should the need arise.

APHIPAR AND APHIDEND

This is an Aphid predator. (Aphidus colemani). These insects lay eggs inside the aphids and the egg develops to continue the process of eliminating aphids. They are dark brown, 4 mm long, and have orange heads. The adult lays eggs singly into mealy bug egg masses. They reach a maximum of five hundred eggs by laying ten eggs per day. Starvation halts egg production. All stages are predatory on foliar mealy bugs.

Another aphid parasite is A. matricariae.

CRYPTOBUG

This is advertised as a super FOLIAR mealy bug predator. One email received said Cryptobug (Cryptolaemos montrouzieri) is very effective against mealy bugs, but again does not differentiate between soil and foliar mealy bugs.

One answer by email was, "A good all-purpose predator is Green lacewings. Eggs are cheapest. They eat just about everything except mealy bugs, but eat all kinds of mites." We still don't know which beneficial bugs will definitely eat our problems, soil mealy bug and cyclamen mite. But anything is worth a chance. We've been taking chances with our health using poisons for years now; maybe it's time to try something new.

Cryptolaemus montrouzieri are originally from Australia and are one of the oldest and most successful of biological controls. Just shake them onto plants right from the container they arrive in. A few will go a long, long way.

PEST	BENEFICIAL INSECTS
FOLIAR MEALY BUG:	Lace Wings, Crytobug (Cryptolaemos montrouzieri)
PRITCHARD'S (SOIL) MEALY BUG:	Beneficial Nematode
BROAD MITE:	Maybe amblyslius cucumeris
CYCLAMEN MITE:	?
THRIPS:	Lady Bugs, Thripex Plus (Amblyseius cucumeris) or Orisus insidiosus, Beneficial nematode
APHIDS:	Lady Bugs, Lace Wings, Aphipar, Aphidend (Aphidus colemani) A. matricariae
FUNGUS GNAT:	Beneficial nematode, Hypoaspis
SPIDER MITE:	Lace Wings, Spidex (N. californicus), Spical Mites (P. persimilis) Mesoseuilus, Neoseiulus, Galendromus, Praying Mantis, Green Lace Wings
SPRING TAIL:	?
WHITE FLY:	Lady Bugs, Lace Wings, En-Strep, White fly parasite,Delphastus, Encarsia Formosa, Orius
ROOT KNOT NEMATODES:	Beneficial nematode
ASSORTED MITES:	Lady Bugs, Lace Wings, Thripex (amblyseius cucumeris)
SCALE:	Lace Wings, Lady Bugs, Praying Mantis

BENEFICIAL NEMATODES:
(Heterorhabditis bacteriophora)

This is a word we don't like to hear out loud. During the fifties and early sixties, Root Knot Nematode was just about the most devastating insect (worm) in our African violet world. Since changing soil formulas to soil less formulas, no longer using garden soil, there have been very few, if any, cases of this terrible microscopic monster attacking our plants.

This particular beneficial insect goes by that dreaded name as well.

Beneficial nematodes are microscopic non-segmented worms which occur naturally in the soil all over the world. There are thousand of strains, and they only attack soil dwelling insects and do not bother plants or leaves.

Beneficial nematodes attack and kill more than 250 different insects including fleas, thrips, and fungus gnats. "Nearly every insect that spends its lifecycle in the soil is likely prey for predator nematodes.

Beneficial nematodes come to you packaged in a small piece of synthetic sponge that you rinse out in water. Then you use any watering can or sprayer to apply them to the soil. The pressure of passing through a sprayer nozzle won't faze them in the slightest. Overnight or second day Air shipping must be purchased.

HOW THEY WORK

Nematodes enter the host's body through a body opening or they will penetrate the body. Once inside, a bacterium is released which will kill the host within two days. Reproduction continues and offspring will seek out new host material. These beneficial nematodes are a safe biological parasitic insect control organism.

Since these beneficial nematodes work only in the soil, we have to ask ourselves will these control soil mealy bugs? The important question has not been answered as yet. These nematodes may be purchased for approximately twenty-five dollars.

Certain problems crop up that need to have answers before buying beneficials.

1. How will beneficial insects react in the home environment?
2. How can they be kept in one room with the plants?
3. Is it necessary to buy a product for feeding the adults while the infants are at work on the plants?
4. How can I keep up the humidity?
5. How long will the beneficials be in my home before dispersing?
6. Will I have to deal with dead beneficials if there is no food for them?
7. Is one "treatment" enough?

Poor humidity environments where humidity is low makes the beneficial's job tougher. Make sure you can get your humidity up before ordering these insects.

For more information on beneficial insects, please go to http://bioscape.com/asccustompages/products.asp?calegorized=3 toll free in US 877-2467227, or make a general search on the internet.

Canada does have sources for predatory bugs. These can be supplied at http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/ipminov/ben.sup2.htm

Or try www.insectary.com or www.richters.com.

USING BENEFICIAL INSECTS PROPERLY

All beneficial insects should be placed at the base of the plants to ensure maximum efficiency. Follow directions as given. Often enough, these beneficial insects, if not used immediately, will cannibalize. This is why when purchasing these weapons, next day delivery is absolutely a must. In the case of Lace Wings, you need one insect per twenty pests.

Beneficial insects do best in humidity greater than 60 % and temperatures of 60-85 degrees F. One mite per square foot of infected area is recommended. These will not harm plants.

Was It The Oyama?

by Nancy Manozzi

I have been growing 'Wee Trail' for at least ten years, and it has never bloomed. Well, perhaps it had one blossom a few years ago, but I'm not really sure. I vaguely remember seeing a little pink flower in one of my trays of plantlets, thinking it might be 'Wee Trail', but when I remembered to look a week later, the flower was gone. Or, had I imagined it? I have propagated it over and over, as I like the plant, and I think optimistically, "this generation will blossom!" The leaves are small and dainty, it grows multiple crowns all by itself, and it cascades over the pot just like a trailer should. It was the perfect trailer in every way, except it didn't bloom!

In my thirty plus years of growing African violets, I have tried almost every method of watering. When I first got interested in violets, I knew very little about them. I grew them on saucers and watered from the top. Then I joined a club and learned about mat watering and wick watering and tried both of these methods. They all worked. I've gone back and forth with these methods, as I would experience great success for a while with one, and then a problem might occur and I would try something else. Back and forth, back and forth. Mat watering is great, but it can spread disease and insects. It has to be washed regularly to eliminate excess fertilizer salts and algae. Wick watering is great as well, especially if you have many plants, but the wicks can either dry up or take up too much moisture.

I had heard about Oyama pots way back, but wasn't at all interested in them. They were funny looking and unattractive. And why would they work any differently than wicking in a regular tub container? At a recent meeting, I noticed Cheryl Salatino had most of her violets in Oyamas, and they looked great. So, why not try one?

I looked through my supplies and found a few. I had learned many years ago that when trying something new, only try it on a few plants.

I decided to try two violets that were always too wet, no matter how light the soil was, no matter how thin the wicking material was. " Georgia Lover" and "Apache Celebration" became the guinea pigs, so to speak. Well, within one week, the crowns opened beautifully and the foliage perked up. I wanted more Oyamas! Knowing it had only been one week, I forced myself to wait a while longer.

A few weeks later, I was visiting Caitlin Muello, and noticed a small pile of Oyama pots in her home. I carefully asked her what she was doing with them and wound up leaving with about eight. I potted up that many violets as soon as I got home, with the utmost enthusiasm and anticipation. 'Wee Trail' was one of them. Well, 'Wee Trail' now has six of the sweetest, single, pink blossoms I've ever seen! Actually, the blossom is nothing special, but when you wait ten years for something, perhaps it is pretty special, after all! Was it the Oyama that brought blooms forth after all this time? I'll never know for sure, but I'm now an Oyama believer!

From *Ye Bay Stater*, publication of the Bay State AVS

Trailers: Making Them Do What I Want Them To Do

by Bev Promersberger • Pensacola, Florida • *Email:* Promers22@hotmail.com

I say, "What *I* want them to do" because it is important to understand that there is more than one way to grow trailers. There have never been any rules that govern the way a trailer has to be cut or if it has to be cut at all. Some trailers do well on their own. Others need a little encouragement from the grower. Others need drastic steps to create a good quality show specimen.

There are two main rules to keep in mind when growing a trailer for show. One is that there must be only one plant, one main stem, in the pot. There cannot be a clump of plants like that which grows from a leaf. The clump must be separated, and only one plantlet is to be planted in the pot. Similarly, more than one plant cannot be placed in a pot at a later time to create fullness or better form. The second rule is that there must be at least three main crowns growing from the single stem for the plant to receive a blue ribbon. I said to receive a blue ribbon, not to enter! One of the main purposes for a show is to educate the public. What better way to educate the public than to see a beautiful trailer with two crowns and a corresponding note by the judges stating that the exhibit did not have three main crowns? So, swallow your pride and get over the idea that an exhibit has to be a blue ribbon entry to be entered. A nicely grown and groomed trailer can be an attribute to any show, regardless of how many crowns it may have.

As I stated earlier, there are some trailers that trail nicely on their own. Those just need to be groomed regularly so that when it is time to enter, all the old and yellow leaves have been removed, allowing new green growth to fill in the gaps. Do not wait until show time. It is too late to remove all the unwanted leaves. Furthermore, it's too late to fill in the gaps.

For those trailers that don't do what I want them to do naturally, I am more persistent. Before I continue, however, I need to share some precautions:

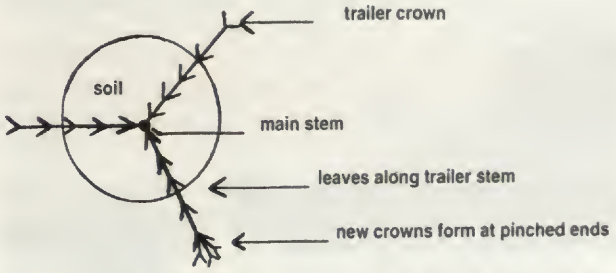
1 - Be sure that you only use these steps on plants you know are trailing varieties, not single crown cultivars.

2 - "If it isn't broken, don't fix it." If your trailer program is working for you, don't change it.

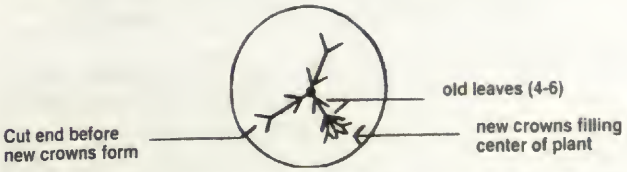
3 - Apply any of my procedures on only one or a few trailers so that you can see if my method works for you and your conditions.

4 - My methods work better on semi-miniature and standard varieties. Most miniatures and micro-miniatures tend to trail more naturally without help from the grower.

Over the years, I have heard people state that if you want to encourage trailing, pinch off the ends of each crown.



Indeed, it will create more crowns, if it's at the ends that you want to create more fullness. The center usually remains sparse. I prefer to encourage trailing in the center of the plant, forcing new growth all the way back to the main stem. Not only will new crowns grow at the ends of each cut crown nearer to the main stem, but other new crowns often grow out from the main stem itself. I usually try to cut each crown as far back as I can, leaving four to six leaves on each crown.



Each of those four to six leaves will ultimately be removed when new growth becomes strong enough to begin forming on its own. In some cases, there is little or no growth in the center of the plant. In that case, I prefer to remove all the crowns, and I plant each crown as a new and separate plant, throwing away the original plant entirely.

I am always willing to answer questions. However, if you want to see all these procedures in detail, you can order the slide program "Trailers - Making Then Do What I Want Them to Do". It is available by writing to the AVSA Office. There is only a small fee required which pays for shipping and handling.

New Show Schedule Approver

Beginning immediately, **Meredith Hall** will replace **Patricia Sutton** as **AVSA Show Schedule Approver.**

Please send your Affiliate Show Schedules to:

Meredith Hall, PO Box 370, Marlin, TX, 76661.

If you have already mailed a schedule to Patricia Sutton, it will be forwarded to Meredith Hall.

A Violet Visit to Russia

Paul Sorano, Owner of Lyndon Lyon Greenhouses, as told to Janet Riemer

In 2002 Vladimir Kalgin attended the AVSA convention in Washington, DC. He visited the commercial sales room, spoke with many of the vendors there, and bought plants. Later he asked if I would be at the greenhouses following convention and if he could come by. Within a week, he, his

Paul Sorano and Vladimir Kalgin at the Park dedicated to Russia's victory over Napoleon.

wife Tatiana, and a driver came, and he bought more plants. A few days later, I received an email from him inviting me to come to Russia for a visit. I was apprehensive of such a trip at that time, but he repeated the invitation at the Baton Rouge convention in 2003, and I gave it some serious thought. When I saw him again in Tucson last spring, I agreed, and plans were underway.

On Sunday, July 25th, I left JFK airport in New York City on a 9 1/2 - 10 hour direct flight to Moscow. I was met at the

Paul in "Red Square" with St. Basil's Cathedral in background.

airport there and was joined by Vladimir who, with his driver, Misha, took me to the Hotel Tatiana. This was an interesting coincidence as Vladimir's wife's name is also Tatiana. With a tour guide, we then went sightseeing in Moscow, stopping at Red Square and the Kremlin. The Kremlin is a large plaza with tall monuments and many government buildings, all surrounded by a high red brick wall, with Red Square along one side and a river flowing along another side. What a feeling being in the place that no American could visit during the Cold War era.

After some picture taking, we drove to Dom Fialki, a shop where African violets were available for sale and where Vladimir had arranged for me to be interviewed for Russian television. During that visit to the shop, I met Sasha, an interpreter, who had helped Vladimir learn English.

With Vladimir in the Violet Shop being taped for a television interview.

Later, we went to a major train station with thousands of people, and that was only one of eight large stations in Moscow. Travel by train is more frequent than flying in Russia. We left for St. Petersburg, an eight-hour, over-night trip from Moscow. I had a private room on a train that was built just last year. On arrival we had breakfast in a room with a plasma television, and I saw my TV interview of the day before while we ate. That was a unique experience.

Vladimir, Tatiana, and a tour guide took me for more sightseeing. For someone who had never been out of the United States, it was awesome. We visited the Hermitage Museum where there were beautiful mosaic tables, a floor made of tiny pieces of various colored gem stones, and many statues and paintings. There were many churches but none allowed photographs to be taken inside. Then we went on a hydrofoil boat ride to Peter the Great Park, which was his summer residence. That too was a new experience. A palace

there had many terraces and pools with fountains of water synchronized to reach exactly the same height.

Fountains in front of the former Tzar's Palace.

Later, we visited the home of one of the members of the St. Petersburg violet club. Although her home was not large, an entire wall of one room and a large part of another were devoted to beautiful violets and other gesneriads. She had a wonderful collection of violets, mostly all in bloom, and quite a variety too! A meeting of the St. Petersburg's African violet club followed where Vladimir showed slides of his earlier trip to my greenhouses, including individual plants on which I would comment through an interpreter. After dinner which was about 11:00 PM, we went outside and it was still light. St. Petersburg is so far north that the nights in summer are quite short. The city is called the "City of White Nights." Then we took the train back to Moscow.

In front of Kremlin building where President Putin works.

In the morning, there was an interview for radio, which was interesting. Sasha, the interpreter I had met earlier in the week, was there to assist. Later, we did more sightseeing, and this time we went inside some of the buildings rather than just viewing Red Square on the outside. There was an enormous bell and a large cannon with huge cannonballs. Then we went into a building where the crown jewels of Russia are kept. Just fantastic. There was a great deal of construction going on around the city with renovation being done everywhere. At the end of the day, we went to a different train station where construction crews were building a domed roof over the tracks. We took the train, this time to Kiev, in the Ukraine, which took about 12 hours over-night.

Although the Russian people seemed very Westernized in appearance, (their dress was much like ours), I was impressed by the difference in roadways. I didn't see any expressways with several lanes going in each direction. Rather, the roads were all one lane in each direction, with no median, and everyone going very fast. There didn't seem to be the concern with safety that we Americans have. Perhaps that is because people in Russia don't sue for damages resulting from an accident. Liability, as we know it, doesn't seem to exist. People are just more responsible and careful. Also, although the cars were modern, most of the trucks seemed to be quite old. Traffic, at times, gets very heavy and vehicles would leave the roadway, go up on the wide sidewalks, around the congestion, and back onto the road. Police didn't seem to mind.

We went to a meeting of the Kiev African violet group and again Vladimir would show slides of his trip to our greenhouses and individual plants on which I would comment, and a translator would translate. Questions and answers followed. Imagine my surprise when a club member asked for my autograph! I agreed, amazed to see others form a line for my autograph! The members brought in plants for show and tell, and they were simply beautiful. I met a hybridizer there who showed me one of his hybrids, and then gave the plant to me. By the end of the trip, many leaves were also given to me, which I'm growing and may eventually be able to put in our catalog. I think the Russians and the Ukrainians would be pleased.

After the meeting, we went to lunch and did more sightseeing in Kiev. Some of the buildings I saw there, I have seen on television recently when the demonstrations resulting from the Ukraine's recent election problems were shown. The tour guide in Kiev didn't speak any English so the translator from the meeting came along to help. There were many monuments and churches with gold domes. The oldest church was originally built in the 10th century and portions are still evident. Then back to Moscow by train.

On Friday, I visited Dom Fialki, the violet shop, again and a Moscow violet club had brought plants there for a show. Many plants were Lyndon Lyon hybrids which is probably why I was asked to visit. Probably 50 – 60% of African violets in Russia are Lyndon Lyon hybrids with the remainder a mixture of hybrids by others. This may be because I have sent about 20 orders a year to Russia for several years and of

course, the growers share leaves and plantlets. I was asked to judge and could just go on general appearance rather than on specifics, but it worked out fine. As I'm not an AVSA judge, I had to use my hybridizing skills as a substitute, but it worked out okay, and I gave several awards. A Russian hybridizer spoke to me about his hybrids and orchids. We did a little more sightseeing and attended the ballet where "Swan Lake" was performed. It was a new experience for me. Vladimir was a most gracious host.

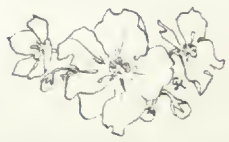
On Saturday there was a meeting of African violet people at the Radisson-Slavianskaya Hotel conference hall. We went up a long staircase. There was a crowd at the top clapping and cheering, a TV cameraman, and another photographer rapidly snapping pictures. I wondered if Tom Cruise was coming up the stairs behind me, but I discovered the warm greeting was for me! It was like a dream sequence. There were displays set up outside the conference room, and again, I was asked to judge them. I went into the conference room and along the wall were photographs of violets, and they wanted me to pick the best of those.

As on previous days, Vladimir showed his slide program and I commented on plants and answered questions. There were several people who read poems they had written about my visit, a contest of "dream violets" in which people had drawn pictures of a violet they would like me to hybridize, and they gave me the pictures to bring home. I awarded top prize to a chimera in which the stripes went across the petals rather than like spokes from the center. Now I'll have to get to work on that. There was also a fashion show where growers dressed up as particular cultivars such as "Pink Sensation." There were drawings of those too, which they gave to me.

The last event was a meeting with Russian hybridizers and club leaders, and we talked about fertilizers, propagation tips, and growing specifics. They wanted to know what my favorite cultivars were and I listed 'Teeny Bopper,' 'Vintage Wine,' 'Pixie Blue,' and 'Spectacular.' If I'd had time to think, I might have come up with another list, but this was off the top of my head. It was good to be able to meet people and talk with them about violets. I felt so at home with them.

Overall, I must say that I was very impressed by the violets I saw on this trip. The quality of the violets displayed and the amount of bloom was incredible, considering there was such short notice of my arrival there! The large amount of plants that were shown at the meetings and events made me realize how devoted these people are to growing their violets.

Everything went well on the trip home. I had to get another suitcase to bring home all the gifts and souvenirs. Everyone had been so gracious and generous. I had gone with apprehension, but I was so overwhelmed by their hospitality that by the end of the week, I was wishing I could have stayed longer. It was an experience I shall never forget.



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Membership runs one year from date paid and includes 6 issues of the AFRICAN VIOLET Magazine.

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Making the Best of the Worst in Culture

by Ethel Champion

This story is not about the right culture, proper care, and good results! Instead, it is about what happens with very, very, minimal care, nothing but a little water now and then, but would you believe, a few good results! This is about the plants that survived the very poor conditions and in some small way, did their very best.

Last November I had heart surgery and some unexpected complications that left me unable to care for my plants for many months. Family and friends took care of minimal watering only, no fertilizing, no repotting, no spraying, and little grooming.

It was apparent right away that there is not enough adequate food in any soil, even though mine contain loam to maintain growth and good culture. The outer leaves yellowed and small plants in small pots just stopped growing. Large plants in larger pots did a bit better. This went on for four to five months. This proves that our practice of a little daily attention, frequent repotting, careful watering, spraying if needed, and 1/4 strength plant food at each watering are necessary for good results.

This is a list of the plants that did something well. At the top of the list, of course, is 'Superman'. It bloomed continuously, always bearing a few stems of blossoms. I cheated; I repotted it once, in March, as I just could not ignore it. It is still one tough plant, now fifty-two years of age. Semis and minis were amazing, and continued to bloom constantly. This was a complete surprise, because, on the whole, the larger the pot, the better the plant during the difficult time, so how come they did so well in 2" and 3" pots?

Any 'Tommie Lou' variegated variety in a larger pot showed a more pink color contrast, and brighter colors than before. There were fewer flowers, but who cares? Another surprise was the variegated *Streptocarpus*, which grew long, lovely strong foliage, better than remembered, with good care. 'Pink Flamingo' and 'Canterbury Surprise' had few flowers but handsome foliage.

Any strep in a large pot grew better foliage and better flowers than small plants in starter pots. We know that streps need frequent repotting, and as Ralph Robinson says, "happy feet". Our best was Rob's 'Bristol's Ink Blot', last repotted January third in a 4" square pot. It continuously bore 6-8 stalks of five or more deep purple flowers on each, and it was actually growing at the edge of a light. In fact, in several assorted trays of starter streps, 'Bristol's Ink Blot' were in bloom.

Another showstopper was *Columnea* 'Broget Stravenger'. Runners were spread all over the end of a light and loaded with several dozen flowers all winter. The tiny green, gray, pink, and white foliage was lovely all by itself. Other columneas that continued to grow and bloom were 'Sheldeana', 'California Gold', and always, 'Early Bird'.

The chiritas were outstanding. They never stopped blooming and even quickly recovered from lack of water. They were actually growing under a two-foot light, minus one tube. Best of all were *Linearifolia* 'Diane Marie', 'Kazu', and even 'New York'!

Hmmmm! There is a pattern here. Are older gesneriads tougher than violets? The only violets mentioned as doing well were 'Superman', 'Tommie Lou', and the minis. This isn't quite true. Many violets bore nice clusters of bloom, although they did resemble "violet trees".

As of now, culture has improved a little. Selected plants are being fed, groomed, repotted, sprayed, and are responding with new growth and flower. The results of the poor culture make you wonder. Do variegates really need less food? Do columneas and chiritas need less food and light? In so many ways it has been a learning experience. We know that violets need a lot of daily attention and more care than other plants, but the joy of producing a lovely blooming plant is well worth the effort.

Post Script: Now that I am back to my regular care of my certain plants, the answer to one question in the preceding paragraph is emerging. Yes, any variegates need less food to maintain the best variegation. I've lost the wonderful contrast of color that that was apparent with no fertilization. The new foliage is green with light edges only.

Making the best of the worst in culture not only pertains to my plants, but to my own personal situation as well. I have learned and grown not only in watching my plants respond, but in learning how to get it all back, physically as well.

From the *Empire Violet Magazine*, publication of the New York State AVS

Coming Events

March 4 & 5 - FLORIDA
Central Florida AVS
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Beardall Senior Center
800 Delaney Ave.
Orlando, FL
Mar 4 - Noon - 4pm
Mar 5 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Elvie Blakely (321) 269 - 3628
Email: seiberty@bellsouth.net

March 5 & 6 - TEXAS
Moonlight AVS Show
Ft. Worth Botanic Garden
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd.
Ft. Worth, TX
Mar 5 - 1pm - 5pm
Mar 6 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Chris Daroche (817) 923 - 3530
Email: chrislovesviolet@aol.com

March 10 - 12 - TEXAS
Alpha AVS, First of Dallas AVS, &
First Nighter AVS
Combined Judged Show/Sale
Dedicated to the memory of
Paula Foster
Richardson Square Mall
501 S. Plano Rd. @ Beltline
Richardson, TX
Hours: 10am - 9pm
Info: Grace Davis (972) 278 - 0389

March 11 - 13 - MINNESOTA
Lakes Area Violet Growers Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Co. Rd. B & Snelling Ave.
Roseville, MN
Mar 11 - 9am - 7pm
Mar 12 - 10am - 6pm
Mar 13 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Jean Ness (651) 429 - 4109

March 12 - CALIFORNIA
South Coast AVS & Tustana AVS
Judged Show/Sale
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verde Peninsula, CA
Hours: 11am - 4pm
Info: Jacquie Eisenhut
(310) 325 - 2993
Email: jeisenhut@hotmail.com

March 12 & 13 - FLORIDA
Fantasy AVC Spring Show
Oak Hill Hospital Enrichment Center
11375 Cortez Blvd.
Brooksville, FL
Mar 12 - 11am - 5pm
Mar 13 - Noon - 3pm
Info: Thad Scaggs (352) 592 - 3501
Email: tascaggs@juno.com

March 18 & 19 - TEXAS
First AVS of Denton
AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Erwin Hall
First Presbyterian Church
1114 W. University Drive
Denton, TX
Mar 18 - 1:30pm - 6pm
Mar 19 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Eunice Curry (940) 382 - 6465
Email: RandANicho@aol.com

March 19 & 20 - DELAWARE
Delaware AVS Show/Sale
Boscov's Auditorium
Rt. 273
Newark, DE
Mar 19 - 10am - 5pm
Mar 20 - 1pm - 4pm
Info: Linda McGregor
(302) 998 - 6185

March 19 & 20 - ILLINOIS
Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Rd.
Glencoe, IL
Both Days - Noon - 4:30pm
Info: Susan Bradford
(847) 740 - 7801

March 19 & 20 - NEW YORK
Capital District African Violet Society
Annual Show/Sale
Foundation for New York State Nurses
2113 Western Avenue
Guilderland, NY
Mar 19 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Mar 20 - 11:00am - 5:00pm
Info: Jared Purtell (518) 436-4740
Email: spurtel1@nycap.rr.com

March 19 & 20 - NEW YORK
Sweet Water Show/Sale
West Sayville Fire House
Montauk Highway
West Sayville, NY
Mar 19 - 2pm - 5pm
Mar 20 - Noon - 5pm
Info: Annette Hershkowitz
(631) 543 - 1863
Email: anhersh@aol.com

March 25 - FLORIDA
Heart of Jacksonville AVS Display/Sale
Avenues Mall
10300 Southside Blvd
Jacksonville, FL
Hours: 9am - 9pm
Info: Bobbi Johannsen
Email: jaxviolet@earthlink.net

March 25 & 26 - OHIO
Columbus AVS 57th Annual Show/Sale
Franklin Park Conservatory
1777 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH
Both Days: 10am - 5pm
Info: Cathy Willis (614) 847 - 0676
Email: john080@wideopenwest.com

March 25 - 27 - COLORADO
Rocky Mountain AVS Show/Sale
Denver Botanical Gardens
Mitchell, Gates Halls and court
Mar 25 - 8am - 7pm
Mar 26 - 1pm - 4:30pm
Mar 27 - 10am - 4pm
Info: barbtrotsky@msn.com

March 25 & 26 - TEXAS
Magic Knight AVS Annual Show/Sale
South Park Mall
2310 SW Military Dr.
San Antonio, TX
Mar 25 - 10am - 9pm
Mar 26 - 10am - 6pm
Info: (210) 923 - 1093

March 26 & 27 - MICHIGAN
Michigan State AVS Display/Sale
Matthaei Botanical Gardens
1800 Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI
Mar 26 - 10am - 4:30pm
Mar 27 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Ingrid Bowman
(248) 698 - 3628

April 1 & 2 - IOWA
Quad-Cities AVS Judged Show/Sale
NorthPark Mall
320 W. Kimberly Rd.
Davenport, IA
Apr 1 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 2 - 10am - 7pm
Info: LuAnn Christenson
(563) 355 - 0726
Email: xenson@kitusa.com

April 2 & 3 - NEBRASKA
Lincoln AVS Spring Exhibition/Sale
Howard Johnson Motel
5250 Cornhusker Hwy.
Lincoln, NE
Apr 2 - 10am - 6pm
Apr 3 - Noon - 4pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

April 2 & 3 - CALIFORNIA
Capital City AVS
Sacramento Garden & Arts Center
3300 McKinley Blvd.
Sacramento, CA
Apr 2 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 3 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Lynn Lombard (530) 637 - 9000
Email: lynn_lombard@worldnet.att.net

April 2 & 3 - NEW YORK
Long Island AVS
51st Annual Show/Sale
John A. Anderson Recreation Center
111 North Oceanside Rd.
Rockville Centre, NY
Apr 2 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 3 - Noon - 5pm
Info: Dorothy Vogt (631) 225 - 1741
Lois Szoztak Email:
loisas@optonline.net

April 2 & 3 - MISSOURI
Sho-Me AVC Plant Show
Loose Park Garden Center
Kansas City, MO
Apr 2 - 10am - 3pm
Apr 3 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Dick/Shirley Faris
Email: dickrich2001@yahoo.com

April 2 & 3 - NEW JERSEY
AVC of Morris County
10th Annual Judged Show/Sale
Frelinghuysen Arboretum
53 East Hanover Ave
Morristown, NJ
Apr 2 - 1:30pm - 5pm
Apr 3 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Jill Fischer (908) 464 - 4417
Email: HFJG.Fischer@comcast.net

April 8 & 9 - MINNESOTA
North Star AV Council Show/Sale
Northtown Mall
Highway 10 & University Avenue NE
Blaine, MN
Apr 8 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 9 - 9:30am - 8pm
Info: Barbara Werness
(763) 754 - 3918

April 8 & 9 -NEW JERSEY
Central Jersey AVS
26th Annual Show/Sale
First Baptist Church
232 Main St.
Matawan, NJ
Apr 8 - 3pm - 7pm
Apr 9 - 10am - 4pm
Info: NJ23Pinky@aol.com

April 8 & 9 - TEXAS
First AVS of Wichita Falls
41st Annual Show/Sale
University United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall
3405 Taft St.
Wichita Falls, TX
Apr 8 - 2:30pm - 4pm
Apr 9 - 10am - 2pm
Info: Sue Ramser
Email: ramserwf@wf.net

April 8 - 10 - NEBRASKA
Omaha AVS Show/Sale
Nebraska Flower, Plant, &
Landscaping Show
Omaha Quest Center
455 N. 10th St.
Omaha, NE
Apr 8 - 1pm - 9pm
Apr 9 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 10 - 11am - 4pm
Info: Joyce Stork (402) 721 - 1478
Email: kents@tvsonline.net

April 9 & 10 - CONNECTICUT
Thimble Islands AVS Judged Show/Sale
Canoe Brook Senior Center
11 Cherry Hill Rd.
Branford, CT
Apr 9 - Noon - 3pm
Apr 10 - 10am - 3pm
Info: Madeline Clem (203) 481 - 9455

April 9 & 10 - NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque AVC
Garden Center of Albuquerque
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM
Apr 9 - 2pm - 5pm
Apr 10 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Agatha Garrison
(505) 384 - 5026
Email: agatha18@juno.com

April 9 & 10 - NEW YORK
AVS of Rochester Show/Sale
Perinton Square Mall
6720 Pittsford-Palmyra Rd
(Rts. 250 & 31)
Perinton, NY
Info: Irwin Wagman (585) 381 - 6384
Email: irwinwag@aol.com

April 14 & 15 - SOUTH CAROLINA
First AVS of Spartanburg Display/Sale
Woodland Heights Recreational Center
1214 John B. White Blvd.
Spartanburg, SC
Apr 14 - 11:30am - 6pm
Apr 15 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Ernestine Wright
(864) 529 - 0817
Email: ernwright@aol.com

April 23 - WASHINGTON
Seattle AVS Annual Show/Sale
Center for Urban Horticulture
3501 NE 41st St
Hours: Noon - 4pm
Info: Denny Van Dorn
(253) 630 - 2341
Email: ddvandorn@qwest.net

April 23 & 24 - QUEBEC, CANADA
La Société des Saintpaulia de Montréal
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Chalet du parc Maisonneuve
4601 Sherbrook Street Est
Montreal, Quebec, Canada
Both Days: 10am - 4pm
Info: Monique Beaucage
(514) 990 - 5701
Email: monique_beaucage@hotmail.com

April 29 & 30 - MINNESOTA
AVS of Minnesota Show/Sale
Har Mar Mall
Snelling Ave. @ County Rd. B
Roseville, MN
Apr 29 - 10am - 9pm
Apr 30 - 10am - 6pm
Info: Ken Rein (651) 488 - 2034
Email: rebels@mninter.net

April 29 - May 1 - NEW JERSEY
Garden State AVS Judged Show/Sale
MarketFair
3535 US Route One South
West Windsor, NJ
Apr 29 - Noon - 9pm
Apr 30 - 10am - 9pm
May 1 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Shelia Ando (609) 275 - 8708
Email: sando8888@aol.com

April 29 - May 1 - IOWA
Evening AVC Show/Sale
Merle Hay Mall
Des Moines, IA
Apr 29 - Noon - 9pm
Apr 30 - 9am - 5pm
May 1 - Noon - 4pm
Info: Joan Watts (641) 377 - 2656
Email: JoJewels@netins.net

Apr 29 & 30 - VIRGINIA
Richmond AVS Judged Show/Sale
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
1800 Lakeside Ave.
Richmond, VA
Apr 29 - 1pm - 5pm
Apr 30 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Bill Schmidt (804) 266 - 6157
Email: schmidt.wc@verizon.net
Web Site:
http://www.geocities.com/ravs1948

April 30 & May 1 - NEW YORK
Saintpaulia Society of Long Island
Annual Show/Sale
Clark Gardens
Albertson, NY
Apr 30 - 2:30pm - 4:30pm
May 1 - 10am - 4:30pm
Info: Joseph Palagonia (718) 738-3442

April 30 - VIRGINIA/WASHINGTON, DC AREA
Old Dominion AVS Judged Show/Sale
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court
Vienna, VA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Donna Christianson
(703) 250 - 0944
Email: contact@odavs.com

April 30 - WISCONSIN
Sundowners AVC & Crosstown AVC
Combined Sale
Olbrich Botanical Gardens
3330 Atwood Ave.
Madison, WI
Hours: 9am - 3pm
Info: Alice Peterson (608) 833 - 5552
Email: peters56@tds.net

April 30 - CALIFORNIA
Carlsbad AVS Judged Show/Sale
Plaza Camino Real Mall
Carlsbad, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Patty Ragan (760) 295 - 0484
Email: Plrbkldy579@aol.com
Pauline Mueller (760) 433 - 4641
Email: BeachPolly@aol.com

April 30 & May 1 - CONNECTICUT
Naugatonic AVS Judged Show
Staybridge Suites
6905 Main St.
(exit 53 off Merritt Pkwy.)
Stratford, CT
Apr 30 - 1pm - 4pm
May 1 - 10am - 4pm
Info: Don Goodwin (860) 283 - 5311

April 30 & May 1 - WISCONSIN
Oshkosh Violet Society
25th Annual AVSA Judged Show/Sale
St. Josaphat Parish Center
1332 Spruce St.
Oshkosh, WI
Apr 30 - 10am - 4:30pm
May 1 - 9:30am - 3pm
Info: Kevin Degner (920) 426 - 3764
Email: kdegner@mcleodusa.net
Cathy Heider (920) 685 - 5262

April 30 & May 1 - MISSOURI
Metropolitan St. Louis AV Council
Show/Sale
Missouri Botanical Garden
4344 Shaw Blvd.
St. Louis, MO
Both Days: 9am - 5pm
Info: Pat Dunlap (636) 789 - 3604

May 6 & 7 - OHIO
Parmatown AVC Show/Sale
7899 West Ridgewood Dr.
Parma, OH
May 6 - 9am - 9pm
May 7 - 9am - 5pm
Info: Lori Hilfer (440) 582 - 4310
Email: rahilfer@adelphia.net

May 7 - CALIFORNIA
Foothill AVS Display/Sale
Westfield Shoppingtown
112 Plaza Dr.
West Covina, CA
Mall Hours
Info: Marianne Kadohata
(626) 331 - 0290
Email: mcalvin@LASuperiorCourt.org

May 7 - CALIFORNIA
Fancy Bloomers AVS
Pre-Mother's Day Plant Sale
Coddington Mall - Gottschalk's Corridor
Hwy 101 & Guerneville Rd.
Santa Rosa, CA
Hours: 10am - 4pm
Info: Becky Jackson (707) 584 - 1386
Email: dbjackson@earthlink.net

May 7 & 8 - ILLINOIS
Late Bloomers AVS
AVSA Judged Show/Sale
Colonial Village Mall
1240 South Alpine Rd.
Rockford, Il
May 7 - 10am - 6pm
May 8 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Carole Zimmerman
(608) 325 - 2550

May 7 - NEW JERSEY
AVC of Burlington County
Annual Show/Sale
Butlington Center Mall
Route 541
Burlington, NJ
Hours: Noon - 9pm
Info: Florence Murphy
(609) 386 - 9234

May 7 - OREGON
Portlandia Violet Club Display/Sale
Jantzen Beach Mall
1405 Jantzen Beach Center
Portland, OR
Info: Blanche Bunker (503) 761 - 7861

MAY 6 - 8 - NEW YORK
AVS of Syracuse
52nd Annual Show/Sale
Great Northern Mall
Route 31
Clay, NY
May 6 - Noon - 9:30pm
May 7 - 10am - 9:30pm
May 8 - 11am - 6pm

May 13 - 15 - PENNSYLVANIA
AVS of Springfield
Annual Judged Show/Sale
Springfield Mall
Baltimore Pike
Springfield, PA
May 13 - Noon - 9:30
May 14 - 10am - 9:30
May 15 - 11am - 5pm
Info: Joan Santino (610) 485 - 0211
Email: mzjoans@yahoo.com

May 13 & 14 - MARYLAND
Baltimore AVC Show/Sale
Catonsville United Methodist Church
12 Melvin Ave.
Catonsville, MD
May 13 - 1pm - 6pm
May 14 - 9am - 4pm
Info: Shirley Huffman
(301) 953 - 7554
Email: Bshuffman2@aol.com

May 14 & 15 - CALIFORNIA
Montrose AVS & Burbank AVS Annual
Display/Sale
Descanso Gardens
1418 Descanso Dr.
La Canada, CA
Info: Vicki Ringer (818) 884 - 0537
Email: VickiRinger@aol.com

May 14 - BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA
Vancouver AV & Gesneriad Society
44th Annual Show/Sale
VanDusen Gardens, Floral Hall
37th & Oak Street
Vancouver BC, Canada
Admission: $2
Info: Katrina Andresen
Email: kandresen@telus.net
Web Site: http://www3.telus.net/vavgs

May 19 - 21 - ALBERTA, CANADA
AVS of Canada 2005 Convention
Hosted by: Edmonton AVS
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Info: info@avsc.ca

AVSA ADVERTISING GUIDELINES

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager

AFRICAN VIOLET MAGAZINE

Advertising Rates, Mechanicals & Deadlines

Deadlines

Jan/Feb issue	Nov 1st	Jul/Aug issue	May 1st
May/Apr issue	Jan 1st	Sep/Oct issue	Jul 1st
May/June issue	Mar 1st	Nov/Dec issue	Sep 1st

Mechanicals & Rates: One Column (3-5/16") Two Column (6-3/4")

REGULAR ADVERTISING

AD SIZE - 3 5/16 IN WIDE	COMMERCIAL MEMBERS	ALL OTHERS
1 INCH	$30	$33
2 INCH	$50	$55
3 INCH	$70	$77
4 INCH	$90	$99
5 INCH TO 9 1/4 INCH	$22.40 PER IN.	$25.00 PER IN.
1/4 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	$95	$104.50
1/2 PAGE BLACK & WHITE	$175	$192.50
FULL PAGE BLACK & WHITE	$345	$379.50
1/2 PAGE COLOR	$475	$522.50
FULL PAGE COLOR	$595	$654.50

Advertiser provides color separations.

Special – Buy 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free when all 6 ads are paid in full in advance. All ads should be same size. Content of ad can change for each issue.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

15 word/$15.00 Minimum. Each additional word $1; series of numbers count as a word. Purchase 5 ads and receive the 6th ad free. All classified ads must be same text and paid for in advance. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. **Deadlines will be the same as those listed for the regular advertising section.**

INTERNET WEB PAGE

Any current advertiser or commercial member in good standing may have his/her business listed on the AVSA Web Page Vendor List and also may have a "hot" link to his page if he provides a reciprocal link to the AVSA page. No process has yet been developed to place advertising on the Internet at this time.

Checks made payable to The AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY OF AMERICA, Inc. (AVSA) must accompany ad copy. Agency commission and cash discount not allowed. Inquiries for color ads - contact Advertising Manager. You need not be an AVSA member to advertise.

Commercial Membership - $37.00 per year (USA) $38.75 per year (International). Make check payable to AVSA. Membership check should be provided separately from advertising cost. Pictures can be included at no extra cost. No copy or pictures can be returned. All copy must be typewritten. NO PROOF SUBMITTED BEFORE PUBLICATION. If proof required submit camera-ready copy.

VISA or MasterCard

AVSA accepts VISA or MasterCard for payment of ads that appear in the AVM. Want to save money? Prepay for five consecutive ads either by check or charge, and receive the sixth ad free. Advertising copy may be changed in this category.

Commercial versus Non-Commercial

Advertisers no longer need to be commercial or non-commercial members of AVSA in order to place an ad. The product or service must be plant-related to qualify. This rule is perfect for an advertiser who would like to "test the waters" before going into a full-scale advertising campaign. Prices for non-commercial advertisers are 10% higher than those for our commercial membership. Unless the advertiser is already a member of AVSA, he/she would not receive a copy of the AVM nor be eligible for any of the other benefits of membership in AVSA.

Example:

1" ad Commercial Member	$30.00
1" ad Non-Commercial	$33.00

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional $15.00 for ads.

Full page Black & White for Commercial Member	$345.00
Full page Black & White for Non-Commercial Member	$379.50

One year (six issues) of non-commercial ads will cost an additional $172.50 for ads.

Four-Color Advertising

The AVM is now accepting four-color ads. Ads will be accepted in two sizes.

One Half Page	Commercial Member	$475.00
	Non-Commercial	$522.50
Full Page	Commercial Member	$595.00
	Non-Commercial	$654.50

The customer must provide the color separations for the copy.

Classified Advertising

- Looking for a home for your old copies of the AVM?
- Moving and don't have room for that plant stand?
- Your club is selling violet key rings as a fund raiser?
- Small commercial grower: Violet lovers travel everywhere to find new plants. Do you go unnoticed and lose business because you feel you can't afford a large ad in the AVM?
- Large commercial grower: Even though you would like to see your ad in every issue, do you settle for fewer appearances?

Why not try out a classified ad to address your situation? The classified advertising may be used by commercial and individual members, clubs, groups and non-members. AVSA individual members advertising in this section will not be considered "commercial" advertisers.

WHERE DO I SEND MY AD?

Regular Advertisements and Classified Advertisements

Judith M. Carter, Advertising Manager
1825 W. Lincoln St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Phone: (918) 355-8020
email: avmads@valornet.com
Please leave a phone number where you may be reached.

ADMIRAL VIOLETS

WELCOME TO SPRING!

LARGE SELECTION OF STANDARDS, GIRLS, VARIEGATED, AND VINTAGE VIOLETS. OVER 35 VARIETIES OF WRANGLER'S.

LEAVES ONLY.....$1.00 EACH
MINIMUM ORDER.....$15.00 + POSTAGE
(POSTAGE + PACKING.....$7.50 PER 100 LEAVES)
SEND $1.00 FOR LIST OR $2.50 FOR CD CATALOG WITH PHOTOS
SHIPPING STARTS APRIL 15TH
(U.S. SHIPPING ONLY)

E-MAIL: katskelton@aol.com

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
KATIE SKELTON
SEND TO:
ADMIRAL VIOLETS
P.O. BOX 485
BRINNON, WA. 98320

African Violet Leaves
Assortment
15 leaves - $13.95
20 leaves - $17.95
30 leaves - $24.95
Includes Hortense Pittman's new Jolly series!

Gesneriad Cuttings
Episcias, Streptocarpus, Chiritas, etc.
Assortment
8 cuttings - $15.95

My Choice Only, No List at this time.

Please add $5.95 priority shipping charges to above specials. Texas customers, please add 8.25% tax.

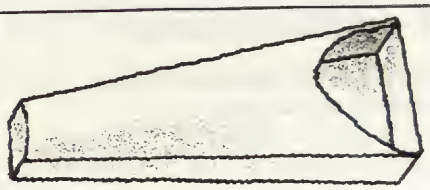
OYAMA PLANTERS
Takes the guesswork out of watering
Provides oxygen and nutrients directly to root system
No clogged wicks or root rot
No spills, leaks, or sweat rings on furniture
Great for rooting leaves and cuttings
Streps and Episcias love 'em!

SASE for Oyama Planters Price List

PLEASANT HILL AFRICAN VIOLETS
4851 Pieper Road • Brenham, TX 77833

Soil SCOOP

For repotting African Violets



Hurricane Ivan demolished our greenhouse and I had lung cancer surgery. We are reducing our business to African Violet supplies only. Our last shipment of scoops is available at $3.00 each with drastic DISCOUNTS, ranging from 10% (for less than 10) to 60% (more than 200) plus S&H. The entire stock (about 2000) for 75% discount.

Violets From The Starrs
2602 Graupera St. • Pensacola, FL 32507 • *E-mail:* gbstarr@juno.com

1-800-770-AVSA

Save the Wild Saintpaulia

Will the Wild African Violet Survive?

Wild Saintpaulia species are found only in a very limited habitat in a handful of mountain and coastal rainforests known by scientists as the Eastern Arc. Much of the Arc rainforests have been destroyed by man.

The African Rainforest Conservancy is preserving and regenerating the Saintpaulia habitat. You can play a critical role.

Friend *(Rafiki)* of Saintpaulia - $10

Patron *(Mhifadi)* of Saintpaulia - $25

Guardian *(Mlezi)* of Saintpaulia - $50 or more

Donations are Tax Deductible made to:
African Rainforest Conservancy · 480 Broadway., Suite 403
New York, NY 10013

JoS Violets
African Violets, Epicias and more
www.geocities.com/josviolets or
send stamped envelope
2205 College Dr Victoria, TX 77901
(361) 575-1344

Jan's Workshop

Custom Made Award Ribbons and Rosettes

Jan Davidson

941 FM 2377
Red Oak, Texas 75154 (972) 617-1186
Fax (972) 617-1198 email: chiefrond@aol.com

CALL OR WRITE FOR A FREE CATALOG.

Regular potting soil, wick-mix potting soil, constant feed fertilizer, reservoir wick pots and saucers, 24 and 48 inch wide-spectrum lamps, physan 20, dandy pots, plastic pots, wick.

ORDER TOLL FREE
1-866-521-9639

VOLKMANN BROS GREENHOUSES
P.O. BOX 191289 DALLAS, TEXAS 75219
www.volkmannbros.com

The Violet Showcase
3147 South Broadway
Englewood, Colorado 80113
(303) 761 -1770 Established 1969

Unusual African Violets, Growing Supplies, Lighted Stands
Open 10 AM - 5 PM (Mountain Time)
Closed Tuesdays + Sundays
Contact us for a free catalog or download a copy at:
www.violetshowcase.com
Shipping supplies year round and violets May - October

LOOKING FOR ORCHID INFORMATION? LOG ON!

Interoct with other eoger orchid enthusiasts by clicking on Orchid Forum ot *OrchidWeb®*, developed especially as an information exchange plotform for orchid growers throughout the world. The American Orchid Society's popular web site has extensive plant-care tips, inspiring photographs, a calendor of orchid events, and other helpful orchid information.

Founded in 1921, the AOS is the world's number-one orchid-information source – just ask 30,000 members worldwide. On-site membership application is ovoilable along with convenient, secured shopping in The AOS BookShop and Orchid Emporium.

The American Orchid Society
Dept. AVMAG, 16700 AOS Lane
Delray Beach, FL 33446-4351
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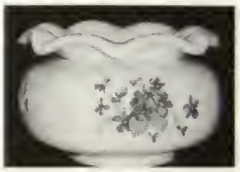

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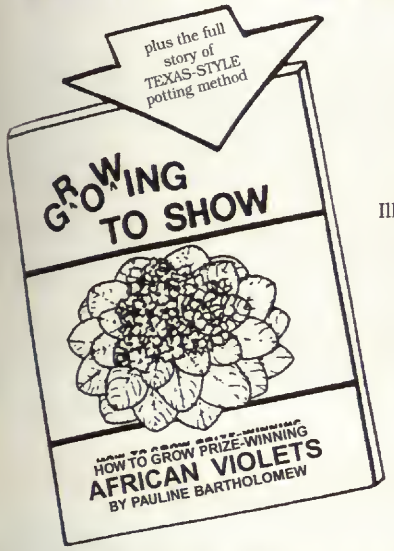
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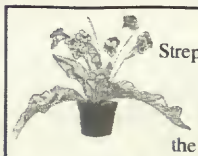

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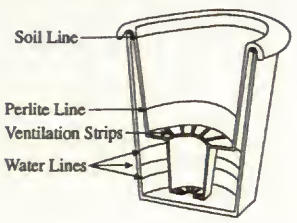

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